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UP THE NILE
BY
ARTHUR SKETCHLEY

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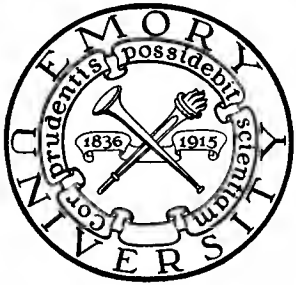

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Mrs. Brown up the Nile.

BY

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY,

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

MR. SCRATCHLEY,

SIR,—As to your a-askin' me what I've seed and 'eard in Egyp', you might as well ask the babe unborn, as the sayin' is, for I'm that confused in my 'ead as I don't know whether I ain't been a-walkin' on it all thro' them pirrymids and crocker-diles and drummyderries, and up to my neck in sand, as were ankle-deep all over the place, and that knock'd and pulled about by Turkeys, as did used to flock about me for black sheep, as is their 'abits.

As to the boys and their donkey-drivin', they're a downright plague of Egyp', as the sayin' is, wuss than 'Ampstead 'Eath, as no doubt you've 'card speak on frequent.

As to the 'Gypshuns, I never see any on 'em

but their mummies, as you can't tell what they is or what they isn't, thro' not a-knowin' 'em in the flesh, except by 'earsay, as is all dried up and ain't to be trusted thro' frequent bein' all lies.

Any one can tell, as knows me, as I ain't not a-pretendin' to be no scholard, and not 'avin' read much about 'em 'Gypshuns, like Miss Pulbrook, as can read the pirrymids, tho' I 'ave 'eard say as they're the same as the gipsies, as is a thievish lot and a reg'lar pest; leastways they did used to be out Norwood way, where Mrs. Padwick's father did used to live, afore a 'ouse were standin', as is now crowded streets, and no 'en-roost weren't safe ag'in 'em, and as to puttin' anythink out to bleach, you might as well give it up for lost at once, as were gone in a jiffey, as the sayin' is, and was punished over and over ag'in by magistracy as rogues and waggerbones, for a-travellin' about in a green carawan, picked out red, on wheels, with a little door and a brass knocker, and neat winder-curtings, as did tinkers' jobs, and made skewers for a livin', and wonderful cures too, thro' a-pretendin' to read the stars, as is all my eye, and I never did believe in.

Tho' certingly one on 'em a-foretellin' a family to Mrs. Chandlers, as were married ten years with-

out none, and died the mother of nine, was werry surprisin', and 'eard 'er myself, as we was a-walkin' out by Eppin' Forest way, as 'ad a child at 'er back, and eyes like the toad for brightness, and gold rings on all 'er fingers; but, in my opinion, was in league with the cunnin' man near Lambeth Walk, as misled 'Liza Tolmead reg'lar, a-foretellin' as she'd marry a foreign prince with a light mustach, as turned out to be only a waiter at a hotel near Leicester Square, without a character, and three wives a'ready, and a escaped conwict into the bargain, as went off to South 'Merryker with everythink as she 'ad to stand upright in, down to 'er workbox, so never listened to them gipsies myself, nor yet cunnin' men.

As to any one a-sayin' as I went to Egyp' a-follerin' the Prince of Wales about, I'd scorn the action, as never was one for to intrude myself on no one, and 'ave a 'usban' of my own to foller, and foller 'im I will.

In course I were 'appy to see the Prince and 'is good lady over there enjoyin' theirselves among them crockerdiles and all manner, as we see 'em once or twice, but only moved to 'em like in passin'; and tho' I did speak to the Prince myself, it was only accidental, at the foot of a pirrymid as they

called its base, without the least a-knowin' who he was, and nothink base about it.

So, if any one thinks as I'm a wulgar mob for to rush arter a ryal family, they'll find as they're got 'old of the wrong end of the stick, as the sayin' is.

Not as I've got anythink to say ag'in the 'Gypshuns, tho' I do not 'old with their ways; but yet do not want to say a word as might cause unpleasantness, 'cos in course Queen Wictoria is werry much obligcd to them for bein' that civil to 'er son, as is 'er son, tho' a prince, and in course she feels like a mother to 'im.

Tho' I never will believe as she knows arf their goin's on over there, or I don't think as she'd care to trust them young boys of 'ers with 'em, as is bad esamples.

But that, of course, ain't no business of mine.

But if there's anythink as you'd like to know, I'm sure you're welcome; and Brown's the party to tell you, as is up to trap, as the sayin' is.

He've got 'is hijeers on the subjec', as I don't 'old with, tho' certingly arf a million of money is a deal for them Parshars and Turkeys to spend on parties as drops in uninwitod and unbeknown, tho' I never will believe as them

Turkeys didn't know as it were all rubbish 'im a-bein' only a baron the same as Baron Nathan, as did used to be master of the ceremonies at Rosherwille, and 'ave seen 'im myself a-dancin' wonderful in the Boronial 'All over seventy, with a step like the grass'opper for lightness.

I'm sure if he'd gone to Egyp', for all that, they'd never 'ave treated 'im that splendid, nor yet 'is good lady, so in eourse they know'd who was who, as the sayin' is.

Certingly, Queen Wietoria, as is the lady all over, 'ave done the right thing in a-telegraffin' the Pope for to thank 'im, tho' what he've got to do with it, I don't know, but see it in the paper with my own eyes, and made the missionary go on a-sayin' as she didn't ought to 'ave nothink to say to the man of sin, as is full of Pagin pride.

"So," I says, "oh, bother; what's that to you as 'ave, no doubt, got plenty of pride and sin about yourself, tho' not pretendin' to be a Pagin, nor yet a Pope neither," and that seemed to shet 'im up, tho' he did say as he never see any one like me to get 'old of the wrong story, 'eos I wouldn't listen to 'is rubbish.

In course as there's a-many things as I've 'eard say, on the quiet, I don't mind a-tellin' 'em

to you, not as it's every one as I'd trust; for if it was to get to Brown's ears I never should 'ear the end on it, and must say, as there aint 'ardly any one as should 'ear it from me, but you're welcome to it, as I knows it won't go no further, and, goodness knows, it's been far enough as I've gone to get it, and shall never want to go there no more, as is 'ighly interestin' no doubt; but Margate's quite sands enough for me, and there's the British Museum for mummies, as I'm a-goin' to spend the day there soon, and shall feel quite at 'ome among 'em ag'in, a-considerin' on 'em old friends like, thro' 'avin' seed 'em in their native pirrymids. So no more at present from yours.

I remain,

Yours obedient,

X MARTHA BROWN.

'er mark.

MRS. BROWN UP THE NILE.

We was a-talkin', me and Brown, one day about leavin' South Lambeth, as never did agree with me, and Brown says, "Martha, would you mind a-goin' over to the East?"

I says, "In course not," thro' 'avin' lived out Whitechapel way with Stepney and the Commercial Road ever since we married, and ain't we arter a cottage now in the Bow Road, as is the East all the world over?

"Oh," says he, "I don't mean that, but the downright East, where the sun rises every day."

"Ah!" I says, "I should like to see the sun a-comin' out with a bust, as must be a glorious sight, I've 'card say, partickler at sea," not but what I was took in a-goin' to 'Merryker and back, thro' never bein' up in time to ketch 'im at it.

"Yes," says Brown, "but that's a-goin' West, so in course you only sees 'im best a-settin' that way."

I says, "In course, right you are, for a-goin' to the West End, I've seen 'im set myself glorious over the Serpentine, and you can't go further West than that, leastways, wasn't able to one time, as was all fields beyond, but now built over down to Shepherd's Bush, where I've 'eard my dear mother say as the Wolunteers did used to be rewiewed by King George 'isself, in a cock-'at on 'orseback, as 'er own brother belonged to a regiment as was waylaid and pretty nigh murdered by footpads, close ag'in Turnem Green, a-marchin' back to town, thro' bein' that lonely."

Brown, he says, "Clack on, and don't let me get a word in hedge-ways—don't, as is your constant 'abits."

"Well," I says, "I'm sure you was a-smokin' away like mad, so I thought natural as you wanted your pipe to burn np the same as the back room fire, as 'ave a down draught, and fills the place with smoke, as I do think must be a brick out of the chimbley, or somethink or other."

Brown said a somethink about that back room chimbley, as was enough to bring a judgment on and says, "Will you listen ?"

I says, "In course I will. What is it ?"

"Well," he says, "when I talks about a-goin' to the East, I means over where there's sandy desserts, and all like that."

"What," I says, "and Turkeys in turbans, and crockerdiles with camels on their backs, and all manner like that?"

"Yes," he says, "as is a long way to go, but money to be made at it."

"Well," I says, "money makes the mare to go," as the sayin' is, "and, in course, would make any one, as calls 'erself a Christshun, do any mortal thing;" for whatever is life without it, for I'm sure I couldn't a-bear to take in a 'aporth of milk without the money, and yet there's scores as lives on nothink but downright tick, as the sayin' is."

Brown says, "Well, we can go there and back for nothink, and put away a few pounds."

Then I says, "Let's start; but how long shall we be gone?"

"Why," he says, "if we starts in a week, jest over two months."

I says, "As 'll jest be the time as this 'ouse will be off our 'ands; but, if we're a-goin', I'll pack up heverything ready to move into wherever we're a-goin' to," as 'ad looked at a cottage in the Bow Road, as suited Brown down to the ground; and we'd all but settled about, as wanted doin' up thorough, and we shouldn't pay no rent till the quarter.

Brown says, "Get ready then."

I must say, when I como to 'ave all the 'ouse pulled about, I did feel raythor dull, as loves my 'ome, and felt werry lonely, not as I did ought to; for I am sure when I comes to thiuk and look back, I ain't got much to complain about, tho' I do wish as Joe had settled 'ere, and 'Liza was nearer to me, for as to Mary Ann, tho' a doin' well, I ain't no pleasant feelin's about that Joe as she married, and I do consider as she brings up 'er children more like conwix than Christshuns, as is what I don't 'old with.

But law, now-a-days, travellin' ain't nothink, not but what I will say as bein' whisked about 'ere and there is bad for the 'uman body, as ain't a shettle-cock nor yet a footbali, as is used to it.

So I'd made up my mind, and was all packed for to go to the East, when it were all put off thro' Brown bein' obligated for to go to Twerton instead for six weeks, as I didn't mind a-trustin' 'im alone there, thro' bein' British ground, as in course he knows 'is way about on.

It was over two months arter, when all of a sudden, jest as I'd got settled in the Bow Road, 'ome comes my lord, and says as the East is all on ag'in.

So I 'ad to start all of a 'urry, and thankful I am now as it's over, for to think as I did go for what I've seen and 'eard, I never would 'ave believed if I adn't seen 'em with my own eyes; as seein' is

believin' as the sayin' is, and to think as there should be sich goin's on in the world, and good souls a-sleepin' quiet in their beds, a little thinkin' what's bein' done meanwhile; and I'm sure if Queen Wictoria only know'd one 'arf, she'd pretty quick order out 'er sojers and say give it 'em 'ot, as the sayin' is, for their goin's on is scandalous, and enough to make your flesh creep, as I see with my own eyes a bandy-legged old Turkey, as were that corpilant as couldn't 'ave stooped to save his life, a-settin' crossed-legged like a tailor, a-smokin', as 'ad drownded lots of 'is wives in sacks for only jest a-lookin' out of winder, as is a bad 'abit but no sin, as Mrs. Padwick never allowed the maid-servants where she lived 'ousekeeper, not even with the sojers and the band a-passin', as makes a 'ouse not look respectable; but as to them Turkeys, I only wish as was one of their wives for 'arf a 'our. I'd give it 'em to rights, as the sayin' is; but they shall 'ear more on it afore I've done with 'em, as never thought as I should get so far from 'ome, and shouldn't never 'ave gone but for Brown, tho' I must say as I never did think as I should be dragged about the way as I 'ave been, like a wanderin' Jew, or a camel over the dessert, as the sayin' is; but 'ave got that used to it now that it don't seem nothink; yet, when Brown fust took to railways and steam, I was dreadful nervous, a-feelin' as atoms

might be the end on me any moment thro' them dreadful collusions, and partickler in a foreign land, where, if I was to fall out of a railway, or be left behind in a tunnel, couldn't make myself understood no more than a babby at the breast, tho' seme on 'em as I've know'd did seem to understand from the mouth, not as I ever considers it a good sign in a infant, their bein' over sharp, as in general leads to fits with their teeth, and werry often brings on water on the brain, as I said would be little Watkins's end the moment I see 'im a-crowin' like mad at the flarin' gas, when he did ought to 'ave been in bed 'ours, and a-takin' a child like that to the play in long clothes, as is not a mother's duty in my opinion.

As I was a-sayin', 'ome is a mother's place, but tho' I've been a mother myself many a long day, yet I don't seem to be able to stop at 'ome, leastways not with Brown comfortable-like, and don't 'old with 'im a-goin' about everywhere alone, as might be took ill or a thousand things. So whenever he says, "Martha, you'd better come along," I'm up to time in a jiffey, and must say as I've seen a good deal as I never dreamt on, and I'm sure would 'ave made my dear mother stare, as a letter was a thing as she didn't get once in seven year from 'er own sister out in Jamaky, and sometimes a year old when she did get it, and that's 'ow it were as she never

know'd whether she was dead or alive, as married a Mulatter with a woolly 'ead, but a mercy no family, as would 'ave been very unpleasant if they'd turned out pie-bald, or even striped.

So when Brown talked about a-goin' to Egyp', I says, "You don't mean where the Jews was, and the mummies come from?"

He says, "In course I do; there never was but one Egyp', and never will be another, as is all pirrymids, as they couldn't build it now-a-days."

I says, "And I'm sure no one don't want to;" and as to them mummies, as in my opinion never was alive, a-layin' in their coffins in the British Museum, and frightened Lizzy Wilkins pretty nigh into fits, and isn't a place where a child did ought to be took, partickler for pleasure; and I considers it's a shame as they don't give 'em Christshun berryin', if ever they was 'uman bein's, as of course, would come on the parish, thro' not 'avin' no friends, and didn't ought to have been disturbed in their graves, as is sacred to their memories, for a tombstone is a tombstone all the world over, tho' 'owever, they could bring themselves to put over old Gruston, as he lived respected and died lamented, I can't think, as was a downright old thief, and ground the poor to hashes like a overseer, and robbed 'em of their burial-club money.

But as I was a-sayin', Brown told me as go to

Egyp' he must, so I says, "You said the East." "Well," he says, "that's it." So I says to him, "At your hage, tho' only fifty-eight, I considers as Egyp' is a risk, especially thro' bein' lusty."

He says, "Rubbish. Why there's old 'Uggins, as is past eighty, thinks no more of startin' for Australier than goin' up to bed."

"Well," I says, "it's werry well for him, as is like a red 'errin' for bein' dried up; but," I says, "you're a full figger, and as to me, I don't think as I could do it, thro' my knees 'avin' give way."

He says, "There's no occasion for you to go, tho' I've got a pass for two."

I says, "I'll think about it;" for you see I'd been in trouble with my knee, as were all brought on three winters ago, thro' a-treadin' on a bit of orange-peel on a slippery night, as throwed me down close ag'in Limehouse Church, a-goin' to take tea along with Mrs. Marlow, as did used to be Lucy Giddins, and married in the furniture line.

Though I must say as I don't think as I did it no good, a-steppin' on a bit of bandanna-peel, a-walkin' along New York, as made me slide three yards at least, and sent me 'ead-first into a shop-window, and was picked up by waggerbones as rifled my pockets on the spot, and never felt as my knee were properly my knee, from that time; but nothink to speak about till the last night of the

old year, a-goin' to spend the evenin' along with Mrs. Padwick, as lives out by Bayswater now, and Brown and me 'avin' moved into the Bow Road, as suits 'im best.

Well, we had a werry agreeable evenin' along with Mrs. Padwick, as wanted us to stop all night, for to see the Old Year out and New Year in; but Brown 'ad to be up in town early in the mornin', so 'ome we went about ten o'clock by the omblebus, as we was to change at the Regency Circus for Bow and Stratford.

I was all right as far as that 'bus as I was hurried into, thro' bein' the last, and frightened to be left behind, and Brown all of a fidget a-pushin' me in, as declared he never touched me.

Well, any'ow, some one gave me a shove, as made the 'orses move on, and I pitched for'ard, a-ketchin' my toe in the mat, and give my knee a wrench, as were that hagony, as made me drop with a flop into the fust seat as I come to, on a lady's lap, as was a-settin' there.

She 'owls out, "Get-up; you're a-smotherin' me."

I says, "I can't get up, my knee won't hact."

She let fly at me that wiolent, as to throw me for'ard on to a little old man, a-settin' oppersite a-dozin', as jumped up and rolled me over into the bottom of the 'bus.

I did manage for to scrumble on to a seat, and there I set in hagonies till we got to the Globe, where we 'ad to get out, and not a stone's throw from our door; but, law bless you, when I did get out, there I was, stuck in the middle of the road like a mile-post, as couldn't move.

Brown says, "Lean on me and 'op."

I says, "'Op! Why, I can't get my leg off the ground."

"Well," he says, "you can't stick here in the middle of the road all night. You'll be run over in an instant, so I must carry you pick-a-back."

I says, "Never will I be took 'ome like a sack of coals, with my legs a-danglin', and you not up to my weight, perhaps as might prove fatal to both, the same as Mr. Edwards, in Tredeager Square, as would creep upstairs with a chest of drawers on 'is back, as 'adn't been emptied fust, and come with 'is breastbone ag'in the top stair, as brought on the asthma, with ploorisy a-settin' in, the fust thing as they did in the new 'ouse, was to pretty nigh berry 'im, thro' bein' give over by three doctors."

Brown, he only says, "Blow Mr. Edwards."

I says, "As no doubt them drawers did blow 'im," and I says "you ain't a-goin' to lift me."

"Well, then," he says, "I must fetch a wheel-barrer."

I says, "What! for your lawful wife. I blushes for you."

He says, "You can't stick here all the year;" for it 'ad jest struck twelve, when as luck would have it, the fire escape come by, and if them good souls, as was three firemen, didn't lift me like an iufant on to it, and wheeled me 'ome in a jiffey, as is that kindhearted, and said as I wasn't no weight, and was that pleasant thro' all of'em having been in the seafarin' line, as is the reason why they make so light of fire, and seems to take quite a pleasure in it, and brought old Mrs. Trehurn down from the third floor back, thro' the ragin' flames, as 'ad lost the use of her limbs, and only a-little singed thro' rheumatics, as was sixteen stone if a ounce, tho' werry nigh drownded thro' them a-settin' 'er on the water-butt, a-thinkin' it dry land, as they'd got to, as the lead give way with 'er weight, and made her slip in, shut up like a foot-rule, but too lusty a figger to go in far.

So I always liked them firemen, as drinked my 'ealth, tho' in great paiu, and was over an 'our gettin' to bed, and 'ad to send for the doctor in the mornin', as said he thought it must be a bit of a cartridge as 'ad gone off in my knee, as I know'd was ridic'lous, tho' I didu't say nothink thro' 'im being a touchy man; but 'owever could a cartridge get at my knee as 'adn't been near no sojers.

It was some days afore I was right ag'in, and able to get about tho' bandaged, and then Mr. Bloxem, as is the doctor, says you get a knee-cap, and you'll be all right, and he sends me to a place at the West End, for to get it, as I was measured for proper by a fieldmale in course, and sent 'ome on the Wednesday, as I puts it on in the mornin', but that tight as bear it I couldn't, so sent it back for to be altered, and then they made it that loose, as it were round my ancle in a instant.

So I takes it back, and all as they says to me, was,

"Oh, we never expected it would fit, your knee is too fat."

says, "Then why ever did you make it for me?"

"Oh," they says, "you ordered it."

So I didn't say no more, 'cos I'd been and paid the money, as was reg'lar throw'd away, so my advice to them as 'ave weak knees, is, don't go all the way to the West End for a knee-cap, as were close ag'in Scavenger's Square, as they calls it, and no more use to me than a 'orse collar round my knee, tho' eighteen shillin's was the price.

So in course I didn't much relish the idea of travellin' along with my knee, but when I come to think about Brown bein' all alone among them 'Gypshuns, I couldn't a-bear it.

I says, it mayn't be for long as we're together,

so I won't be parted from 'im, and made up my mind to go, and so I tells Brown as soon as he come in.

"Well," he says, "you'll be in good company," for he says the Prince of Wales and 'is good lady is a-goin', and lots of swells besides. I says, "Oh, indeed," but was a deal too much took up with my own business, a-packin' up, to think about no Princes of Wales, nor England neither, for that matter.

We went off by the mail-train one foggy night, as pretty nigh choked me, and my cough that bad, as Brown wouldn't go no further than Dover, as we slep' at, and made it more cheerful a-goin' to sea by daylight, not as ever I were cheerful till we was safe across, as seemed like old times come back, a-goin' to Paris, and found Mr. Ditcher werry friendly, and stopped along with 'im for a rest, as wasn't no rest for me, and glad I was to be off by the train for Marsails, as they calls it, and well they may, for it's where every one do sail from to Injy and all about.

It certingly are a tremenjous journey, and not 'ardly no time for to refresh yourself, not but what I will say as there was things to be 'ad in plenty, but no time to eat 'em, as made me glad as I'd got a basket with a little cold wittles and a bottle of wine, and a straw flask as 'olds best part of a pint, as kep' me and Brown comfortable all night, not as we could sleep for a beast of a Frenchman as were

a-travellin' for 'is 'ealth, and snored like a 'og, and took off 'is boots with no slippers, and stockin's as 'adn't never seen water for weeks, except thro' the 'oles in 'is shoes, I should say.

I thought I should 'ave 'it 'im, for he was wuss than any Yankee for spittin'.

The carriage was that crowded full, and no winders down, and there was a young woman with a babby as turned out English.

That poor infant screamed frightful.

So I says to Brown, "That child's in pain."

"Yes," says the poor mother, "and I don't know what to do to quiet 'im, as is only five weeks old, and am a-goin' to jine my 'usband at Marsails, and don't know the langwidge, and ain't 'ad a bit nor drop since I left London last night."

I says to Brown, "Give me the basket;" and then I turns to the young woman and says, "Please give me the babby," and werry soon set to rights, and made 'er eat and drink, as was all as were required, and might 'ave 'ad a quiet night all but for that snorin' 'og of a Frenchman.

We was a-travellin' all night, and what with the Frenchman, and bein' that 'urried and scurried, sleep I couldn't, and when daylight come, was more dead than alive; and a-thinkin' as I'd rest at Marsails, kep' me up.

But, law bless you, there ain't no peace for no-

body with them French, for we was no sooner got to Marsails, and out of the railway, than we was aboard the steamer, as were a-roarin' and a-puffin' like a wild beast a-tryin' to get loose.

So we was off full soon, and a-tossin' about in the briny deep, as they calls the Gulf of Lions, no doubt from the roars, as was downright stunnin'.

As to Brown aboard a steamer, he's downright on his native helephant, as the sayin' is, and goes to the engine 'ouse like a duck to the water, as makes it dull for me; and thankful I was in two days to get up ag'in, and werry pleasant parties aboard, and a-goin' on to Egyp' without 'ardly a-stoppin', as seemed aggrawatin', tho' Brown did say as there wasn't nothink worth seein' on the road; but I see lots of mountings and all manner all about.

I was a-settin' on the deck a-talkin' to a lady as were a widder a-travellin' alone, and she says to me, "We're quite in the fashion a-goin' to Egyp', as crowds is a-rushin' there for to see the Prince and Princess of Wales."

"Well," I says, "that is downright foolishness to go all that way for to see them as you may stare at out of countinence, as the sayin' is, nearly every day in Pell Mell," as I've see a many a-standin' ever so long afore the gates of thoir 'ouso a-waitin for 'em to come out, as I consider werry intrudin' ways.

"Yes," says the lady, "everyone takes a interest

in 'er, as is good lookin', and I'm glad if he is a-goin' to 'ave 'is fling in Egyp', as she's a-goin' too."

"What," I says, "and leave all them young hinfants, as I've seen their photygrafs, as don't look strong."

"Oh," she says, "they're a-goin' to be left behind along with their grandma."

"Well," I says, "in course everyone knows their own business best, but if I was their grandma, it's what I wouldn't 'ave, for it's 'ard on 'er, as is a-gettin' on in life like myself, tho' nearly five years between us, to be bothered with a young family ag'in."

"Law," says the lady, "she won't be bothered with them, bless you, as 'll be well looked arter, and a sentinel a-keepin' guard over them night and day, a-walkin' under their nursery winder with 'is baggynet fixed."

"And 'ighly dangerous, too," I says, "for if one of them children was to tip out of the winder a-reachin' arter anythink, as they will do, and come on to the point of that baggynet, there'd be a pretty 'ow-d'ye-do, and Queen Wictoria considered to blame, for it's all werry fine a-talkin' about 'avin' no trouble with children, as always was trouble, and always will be, partickler other people's; but depend on it, as their grandma will 'ave many a sleepless night over their teeth, and a-livin' in constant dread of their 'avin' fits, or bein' let fall by them careless nussmaids, as

'll let a child drop, and never say a word," the same as poor Mrs. Chittens's twins, as one is bandy and the other squints, all thro' bein' let fall all down the stairs thro' the gal, as she kep' a-tryin' to carry 'em both up together, with the tea-things and the kettle jest on the bile, and that scalded herself as to be took to the 'ospital; and Mrs. Chittens only stepped in next door to see a neighbour, the same as Queen Wictoria might do, as in course can't be in two places at once, and ain't a-goin' to stop at 'ome for ever for the grandchildren.

The lady says, "I only wish as all the children as is deserted by their parents as well off as them."

I says, "I never will believe as that Prince of Wales is one to desert 'is wife and family, and leave 'em chargeable on Queen Wictoria, as 'ave other grandchildren besides."

She says, "Oh dear no. She's only got to look arter 'em."

I says, "I considers it a 'ard trial for a grandmother to 'ave 'em throwed on 'er 'ands," like poor Mrs. Giddens, as 'ad 'er daughter run away with the lamplighter, and come back to 'er with three, thro' 'im bein' a married man, as they sent to prison for nine months; but what good did that do the poor old grandmother, as 'ad as much as she could do to get 'er livin' with a mangle and a idjot son.

So Queen Wictoria ain't the only one as 'avo

'ad 'er troubles by thousands more, and comes werry 'ard on some the same as poor young Morley, as were a postman, as lost 'is wife, and couldn't get a day, not even to berry 'er, and were told as he 'ad a duty to the public, and couldn't shet 'isself up with 'is sorrers.

We was a-talkin' werry friendly, me and that lady, and a-gettin' on famous, when a party a-settin' by, as were a 'Merrykin, he bursts out a-larfin', and says, "It's enough to make a cat laff to hear you talk about that Queen of yours, as don't amount to a row of pins arter all, and nobody thinks nothink on, but everyone runs 'er down."

I says, "Nobody don't run 'er down, as is worth a-listenin' to, thro' bein' a lady."

"Oh," he says, "I've heard all manner ag'in 'er."

I says, "And so you might ag'in me, as don't prove nothink."

"Yes," says the lady, "we can't none on us escape the effect of calamel."

"No," I says, "and a 'ighly dangerous medsin, as 'as brought many to their graves untimely thro' a-takin' cold on it, and loosened every tooth in poor old Mrs. Johnson's 'ead, and as to old Filby as did used to drive a fly out Stepuey way, it brought on palsy no doubt, thro' beiu' drenched to the skin in a 'eavy shower with blue pills."

Says that 'Merrykin to me, "I say, hold up

there, and let's 'ear about Queen Wictoria, and not about your bein' sick."

I says, "I won't deny 'avin' been sick, tho' better now," but jest then, the wessel begun for to roll ag'in, and glad I was to get to my cabin ag'in, and there I stopped till we was off a place as they calls Malta, as is a island the same as Robinson Crusoe lived on, and nothink but a barren rock, as is 'andy for the ships to run upon, and noble wessels, too, and all true born Britons, as did my 'art good for to see 'em.

Brown he went ashore, but I was that trembly in my legs, and seein' such a lot of stairs, I turned back aboard the steamer, and stopped along with the stewardess.

But, law bless me, they took coals aboard, and of all, the black dust as flew about everywhere, as covered everythink, and made me look quite the nigger, I never did.

I've knowu what wind is at sea, but never shall forget the night as we left Malta, as I thought must have blowed us out of the water, as the sayin' is.

I says to Browu, "Why ever don't the capting put back, as is downright prcsumption;" but he only laughed, and said it wasn't uothink, but it kep' on a-blowin' and a-'owlin'; and as to gettin' up, I might as well 'ave tried to fly, with the plates and dishes a-jumpin' about all dinner-time.

So I says to myself, "Bed's the place for me," and there I stuck, and glad I was, for the wessel give that wiolent roll one day, jest as the steward brought in a tureen of scaldin' soup, as made 'im trip, and empty it into the 'Merrykin's shirt-front, and pretty nigh scalded him to death.

As shows what accidents may 'appen, all in a moment when least espected, the same as poor Mrs. Arkerite, as pitched 'ead foremost into 'er own wash-tub, and must have been drownded in the suds, if her weight 'adn't split up the tub, and let the water out all over the floor, as is a dreadful mess, but better than bein' drownded, tho' the soda, or somethink as she used, got into 'er eyes, and made 'em that weak, as never to thread 'er needle ag'in without glasses, as ain't to be espected over fifty, tho' my own mother's aunt never wore 'em, and worked at her needle up to two days of 'er death, as was over eighty-six.

But, certingly, if it do blow and rage in them seas, it's downright wonderful 'ow calm it will turn; and the day afore we got to Egyp', it was lovely, but didn't last not over sunset, and was werry nigh the end of me; for I was a-settin' in the cabin on a werry joggly chair, just arter dinner, and it had been that awful 'ot as they'd opened a winder at the end, when all of a sudden, without no warnin', if the sea didn't take and come rushin'

in at that winder, and all the place was reg'lar swilled.

I jumps up in a fright, and 'ollers "'Elp, murder, we're a-goin' to the bottom," and so I thought we was, for the wessel give another jump-like, and down I goes on the floor a-settin' in all that slush, and if them idjots as come to 'elp me, didn't larf that wiolent, as lift me up they couldn't, and other parties as come to see what was the matter, fell right over us, and there we was all a-strugglin' on the floor higgledy-piggledy, as the sayin' is, for all the world like wild beasts broke loose.

What aggrawated me most was them waiters a-sayin' as it was me as 'ad opened the winder, and Brown give me that rowin' a-sayin', as I might 'ave served 'em like the Royal George, as went down in a instant, with all their 'ands, as the sayin is, thro' there bein' that careless a-leavin' of all the ports all open, as I knows is true, for I've seen a bit on it as were got up pieeemeal, with a diving-bell on Mrs. Oakley's mantelpiece, as were a cousin to my own grandmother, and the only one as escaped to tell the tale, thro' not bein' aboard, and would have been shot for a deserter, only was thought to 'ave been drownded with the rest, for 'avin' gone ashore the night before to a Christenin' unbeknown, as is a awful warnin' to them as ain't careful to keep the ports shet, as they did

ought to, the same as I've 'eard say as they did in 'Merryker during the war, as were a hardship to a many, but saved many a life; as to folks a-grumblin' about it, that's what they always will do, 'owever you may try to serve 'em, and no thanks for your pains neither.

I'm sure, when we got ashore at Egyp', I didn't 'ardly know myself, I was that burnt and briny, and of all the tag, rag, and bobtail lots as ever you did see, it's them boatmen, and parties as carries your luggage, and boys 'arf naked a-drivin' their donkeys in your way, and all the world out of doors, as is werry coufusin' to the 'ead; and glad I was when we got to Mrs. Johnson's, where we was a-goin' to stop, thro' 'er 'usband bein' in with Brown about them engines.

I'd know'd Mrs. Johnson years afore over in England, as were never a beauty the best of times, and now a reg'lar fright, thro' a-takin' to a Mowair front, with all 'er teeth out, as were p'r'aps as well, a-livin' among them Turkeys, as is such waggerbones, and not satisfied with one wife, and might 'ave took and carried 'er off the same as 'ave 'appened over and over ag'in, as I've seen the picters on; not but what I thinks as they must have 'ad some encouragement from them young women, as they wouldn't never 'ave made that free with. As to Mrs. Johnson, she's got a woice like a screech howl, as the

sayin' is, and not likely to encourage no Turkeys, nor no one else, tho' she might 'ave been pleasant once afore; years and disapintements in life 'ad made a difference in 'er, as always were a fretful disposition, and 'ad a nice 'ouse in floors, as looked over the sea thro' bein' 'igh up, but certingly werry clean, with a reglar Turkey of a 'usbaud, as wouldn't suit me, for, bless you, if the dinner weren't done to a turn, would wish 'isself dead and all manner.

I never did 'old with them Turkeys, nor yet their ways, as is downright filthy, tho' I know'd a werry nice old 'un as sold Turkey rubub. As to the Turkey women, there's no tellin' what they're like, thro' a-coverin' their faces up to the eyes, as in my opinion proves as they ain't worth lookin' at, or they'd manage to drop their wails so as to be seen somehow.

But they're only the poor women as is about the street, for as to them waggerbones as is rich, and 'ave as many wives as they can pay for, and shets 'em up for life, as p'r'aps may be a check on 'em, thro' bein' a 'arum scarum lot.

I wants to know what woman would like to be obligated to live along with a nasty old beast of a feller as treats 'er like furniture and nothiuk better; and so as I told the 'Merrykin missionary as lived at Mrs. Johnson's, and were a-goin' on about slavery.

I says, "You're werry fond of 'owlin' over them black niggers bein' slaves, as is all they're fit for, but don't do nothink for poor Christshun gals, as is stole from their parents and sold to these filthy Turkeys."

Says the missionary, "Their parents sells 'em."

Then I says, "More shame for 'em, and did ought to be 'anged; and I'm sure if Queen Wictoria know'd it, as she will do, no doubt, when 'er son gets 'ome, as will in course mention it, I'm sure as she'll interfere and send that Grabidaldi or some one for to set 'em free."

"Oh," says the missionary, "she can't interfere."

I says, "Oh, can't she, we shall see about that; why, didn't she send 'er own men-of-war to 'elp Grabidaldi ag'in the Pope, so of course she will werry soon settle the 'ash of sich a wile lot as them Turkeys."

That missionary said as I were a-mixin' up things wonderful; but I says, "Never mind; but let them Turkeys lay a finger on me, and see 'ow I'll serve 'em."

Mrs. Johnson she keeps a sort of a lodgin' 'ouse for to make both ends meet, as the sayin' is, and do 'ave a good many captings and their good ladies a-stoppin' there from time to time, but only three when we was there, as were Capting Walsh and 'is

wife, and a single lady in the name of Miss Pulbrook, as 'ad come out for the benefit of 'er 'ealth.

She may have been delicate, but the sea air or somethink 'ad agreed with 'er wonderful, for I'm sure she did used to eat and drink that 'arty as to make you stare, tho' she never looked no better for it.

Her and me was werry friendly, for Capting Walsh were that low-lived in 'is langwidge as wasn't pleasant, and as to 'is wife, she were a reg'lar fish for drink, as made 'er that quarrelsome as there wasn't no livin' with 'er, and would take to 'er room for days in the dead sulks, and 'im out night and day up to 'is larks, a-pretendin' he must be a-lookin' arter 's charter party.

He was a light-'earted character, and would have 'is bit of fun, and says to me and Miss Pulbrook, as were a-talkin' of goin' out a sight-seein' one mornin', "You look out and mind as none of them Turkeys don't carry you off, as is devils of fellers."

I says, "Capting Walsh, I'm sure as there ain't a British tar as wouldn't welter in all 'is native gore rather than see a fellow-countryman insulted, partickler bein' a fieldmale."

He says, "Law bless you, them Turkeys does their works too well for that. Why they'd whip you into a sack, and off you'd go at a 'and gallop, and

never be heard on ag'in." So he says, "Keep your weather eye up, and whenever you sees a train of donkeys with sacks on 'em, that's the way they carries the women off, you be on your guard."

I says, "The waggerbones! I'll sack 'em if they dares lay so much as a eye on me."

"Oh," he says, "you're pretty safo 'ere, but if you goes any further, look out; for the Turkeys admires figgers like yours."

Miss Pulbrook she was a reg'lar scholard, and know'd all about them 'Gypshuns, but werry much given to contradict any one, if they opened their mouth; for I was only a-sayin' as it were a great compliment, a-callin' that place arter the Princess Alesandrer, and if she didn't say, "Bless you, it was named sentries ago by the Romans, as was called Alesander the Great, and lived in Babylon, and took to drinkin', as prov'd 'is end, as it 'ave thousands more."

"Well," I says, "it's werry sing'ler its bein' called Alesandrer, and 'er a-comin' to it at the same time, the same as when Queen Wictoria went to Ireland, as they changed the name to Queen'stown, thro' 'er a-landin' on Cork, as is well-known will float, all the world over, as I knows is true; for there were a party as lived close ag'in us, in the name of O'Grady, as 'ad both 'is arms shot off, a firin' a salute when she come ashore, and 'ad a shil-

lin' a day to live on ever arter, and obligated to eat 'is wittles out of a soup plate, with 'is mouth for all the world like a trough; and it's as well as 'is wife 'ad a trifle to 'elp, or never could have done it on a shillin' a day."

Miss Pulbrook says, "You've seen and 'eard a deal in your time, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "I 'ave, indeed;" for I see she were a-sneerin', as 'ad been put out with me for sayin' as there wasn't no fear of no Turkey a-tryin' to carry 'er off, as were a reg'lar weasel of a figger, and what they admires is a fleshy beauty; and if she didn't say, as any Turk as tried to carry me off, would have 'is work cut out, and that there wasn't no livin' donkey as could carry me.

Not as I am touchy about my size, as I considers becomes my time of life, tho' I've been obliged to give up boots as wants lacing, and don't stoop that ready as I did use to.

Me and Miss Pulbrook went out a-walkiu' in Alesandrer, as is a fine place enough in its way, and a constant bustle; but, law bless you, it's for all the world like Wappin', for ships, seafarin' parties, as is all over the place with liquor shops, and all manner; and of all the sing'ler dresses as some on 'em wears, it's like mountebanks.

I'm sure the way as I were bumped and pushed about was enough to carry me off my legs, and Miss

Pulbrook a-goin' on callin' 'em dirty beasts of Turkeys picturesque, as I didn't see nothink about 'em but what wanted the wash-tub.

There ain't nothink werry grand about Alesandrer, tho' Miss Pulbrook was a-tellin' me as it were the werry fust light'ouse in all the world as were ever 'eard on, and called Faro arter them kings as treated the Jews so bad, as the 'Merrykin missionary went on about constant at meals.

So at last I says to 'im, "Escuse me, sir, but if you'd jest let 'em Jews drop, it would be all the better;" for it always brought on words with 'im and that other 'Merrykin, as said he didn't believe nothink but what he saw.

So I says, "All I got to say is, I wish as you 'ad lived to see as it were all true, with all my 'art; for then, p'r'aps, you'd 'ave been got rid on along with the other plagues;" for there never was sich a man in this world as that 'Merrykin for quarrellin' about everythink.

So the missionary he shet up, and then we 'ad a little piece over them Jews, as ain't a proper subject for to be everlastin' wranglin' about, in my opinion, tho' every one seems to pitch into 'em; for the Christshuns won't 'ave em, and as to the Turkeys they reg'lar detests em.

I must say as them Greeks seems a bad lot, as is always a-fightin' and quarrellin'; and we see one on

'em stab a poor waiter, as didn't bring 'im 'is coffee quick enough; leastways, I didn't see 'im do it, and am thankful as I didn't; for I can't a-bear them awful sights, as would 'ave upset me all over Egyp', and everywhere else; for I'm one as can't a-bear uo 'orrers, and I shall never forget, not to my dyin' day, whether it's long or short, the awful turn as it give me, that 'Ampwell as 'uug 'isself in the back washus, thro' bein' crossed in love, as I never believed in; and then to come out as he'd made too free with the till, as is a temptation to any young man as is not steady, as he certingly never were, as p'r'aps, were not to be espected, thro' bein' brought up by 'is grandmother on the father's side, as never said 'im nay; and I do believe if he'd cried for the moon, would 'ave tried to get it for 'im, as is out of reason, and quite beyond her reach, as was a kind-'arted soul, and worked 'ard till bent double with rheumatics, as took 'er in the joints, as was brought on, in my opinion, a-workin' at the cabinet business, as is werry tryin' to the fingers, thro' that gimp, as 'll break needles by the bushel, and was the end of 'Melia 'Arris, as broke one into 'er thumb and a lockjaw, afore she could turn round, as proved a dead lock in three days; but must say as she was never proper nussed. But as to that poor waiter, he was past nussin', with a knife thro' 'is 'eart, as never spoke ag'in, and no chance of the wagger-

bone as killed 'im bein' 'ung, thro' claimin' to be a British subjec', as they was a-tellin' me at breakfast.

I says, "What of that? murder's murder, all the world over."

"Oh," says the 'Merrykin, "the British Lion don't allow any one to find no fault with his cubs."

"Well," I says, "I'm British enough for anythink, but I'd 'ang the waggerbone with my own 'ands; but, p'r'aps, 'ad better leave it alone, as 'll be sure to come 'ome to 'im before he dies."

I must say as I never did see sich a lot of sing'ler figgers, as is all about the place in Alesandrer, as you might take for Babylon broke loose, and English everywhere, thro' its bein' a short cut over to Ingy, as did used to take a many months to go to, and now only a few weeks, as'll be nearer still when they've been and cut thro' the Red Sea, as the French is a-goin' to do.

But I can't think 'ow any one comes that way, with a custom-'ouse as 'll rout out your box, out to the werry bottom, and upset everythink, not as they wants to find anythink, but only for black sheep, as they calls presents, as they gets out of parties; and the way as they grabs at your things, and goes on, is shameful.

It seems to me, as tho' more parties comes 'ome from Ingy than goes out, as is werry nat'ral, 'cos in course, them as is goin' out ain't in no 'urry to get

there, but when 'omeward bound, as the sayin' is, they're reg'lar in a breakneck 'urry.

Not but what I knowed more than one young officer, as stopped for a bit of a spree with the Turkeys and went to see the pirrymids, and all manner like that.

A many passengers stopped along with Mrs. Johnson, as is a motherly woman in the main, tho' a little bit 'ard-'earted at times, partickler with ladies, as she says was more trouble than enough, and so I must say, as one proved to be, tho', poor thing she was to be pitied, not as ever Mrs. Johnson quite forgive me for interferin', but I must say as I'm glad I did, now it's all over, and so is Mrs. Johnson in 'er 'eart of 'earts, tho' too proud to own to it, as is the way with some, as never will own as they've been in the wrong, as is a proud sperrit.

I was sure we was right about that young woman, for she was a poor young thing, as was on 'er way 'ome, but took that bad as she come to Mrs. Johnson's for to stop, as she couldn't go on by the steamer. She 'adn't no servant with 'er, and a infant only three months old.

Mrs. Johnson didn't care about takin' 'er in; but as soon as I see 'er, I says, "If you turns 'er away from your door, it'll be a 'eavy sin, for she ain't long for this world."

She says, "Oh, it'll be a world of trouble."

"Well," I says, "we're born to trouble, and it's no use a-shirkin' it, for it's safe to come."

So she give in, and we got that poor thing to bed; and as to the infant, it was a little skellington, and died two days arter on my lap, for the mother, poor thing, wasn't strong enough to set up in bed even.

I says to Mrs. Johnson, "It ain't worth while to tell 'er as it's gone, unless she should ask."

She says, "Do as you please, as you've took so much on yourself."

I says, "I'm agreeable," and goes to that poor thing's room, as 'ad dozed a good deal, and the doctor told me as she couldn't last many 'ours.

It was a lovely night, and the moon a-shinin' all so calm and quiet, it seemed like what 'evan might be to them as 'ave been tossed and knocked about in this world.

I didn't 'ave no light, for fear of wakin' 'er up, and sat a-listenin' to 'er breathin' as was short and 'eavy.

At last she gives a sigh, and says, "Oh dear me."

I says, "Do you want anythink?"

She says, "No."

I says, "I'll get a light."

She says, "No; I like this moon."

I was all of a fidget, a-espectin' she'd ask for the infant every moment, but she didn't.

She says to me at last, "I feel that I am not long for this world, and want you to promise me that when I'm gone, you'll pack up all my clothes, and send them to my mother. I 'ave cut off a lock of dear baby's 'air; it is in this little purse; put a bit of mine in it, too. They'll prize it now."

I says, "My dear, ain't you no message not to them, or to your 'usband."

She says, "No. I don't want to say a word. I forgive them all; if I have aeted wrongly, I am punished."

I says, "My dear, you don't ask about your baby;" for I eouldn't bear 'er to die without knowin' it was gone.

"Oh," she says, "I know he's dead. When you brought 'im to me to kiss this arternoon, I saw death in 'is dear little face. He has gone to 'is happy home. Oh, may I be with 'im soon."

She give sueh a deep drawed sigh that I thought it was all over, so ran to get a light, and when I eome back, she only said, "Kind soul, good-bye," and was gone like a bird without a flutter.

She looked like the driven snow for pureness, as we laid 'er on the bed with the infant in 'er arms, they was a lovely pietur, and so we berried 'em, leastways, the Counsel; he give the orders, and

all was done reg'lar and decent, and money enough to pay Mrs. Johnson, as wanted me to take somethink for my trouble.

I says, "Oh dear no; it were only three days, and if it 'ad been three month, I'd not 'ave left 'er, poor dear; for all alone in this world makes death more terrible;" and I says, "I knows well as my own turn must come, and as I 'opes not to be deserted then, so will I never turn my back on the dyin', as I considers is sent my way for me to do my duty by."

It was late at night, the day arter 'er bein' berried, as a middle-aged party come up all of a 'urry to Mrs. Johnson's, just as we was a-goin' to bed, indeed Mrs. Johnson 'ad gone with a awful 'eadache, so I speaks to the gentleman, as 'ad a red face and a 'usky voice.

He says, "I've been all over the place lookin' arter a Mrs. Trebizon, as came thro' with the last mail."

I says, "Is she any relation of yourn, sir?"

He says, "Yes; she's under my care, and left Bombay without my knowledge with a young child."

I says, "Set down, sir;" and asks 'im a few questions, as showed me it was the lady as we'd just berried.

He says, "I don't care what becomes of 'er, it's the child I wants."

I says, "You needn't try to separate 'em, for you can't."

He says, "Do you know anythink about 'em?"

"Yes," I says, "a good deal."

"Well, then," he says, "tell me this moment, without beatin' about the bush."

I see as he 'adn't no more 'eart than a millstone, so I says, "P'r'aps, you'd better go to the Counsel, as'll tell you all about 'em."

He says, "It's too late to disturb 'im to-night, but," he says, a-swearin', "I'll find 'er."

I says, "You needn't give way to no bad langwidge over it; for she's past that."

He says, "What do you mean?"

I says, "She died the night afore last, just three 'ours arter her infant."

He give a guggle like in his throat, and fell back in the chair, so I undid 'is collar, and throwed water in 'is face, and when he come to he began to rave, and if he wasnt 'er 'usband, as I thought he never could be, for he was over sixty, and 'er a mere gal.

He rushed out of the place all of a 'urry, and we never see 'im no more, but 'eard the story, as was in everybody's mouth, so I says to the missionary, as was a-talkin' about parents sellin' their children to them old Turkeys, "What do you think of English people as'll take and sell a young gal to a old feller

with money, tho' she's in love with a young chap as ain't got a penny to bless 'imself with." I says, "If you missionaries was to take and preach to sich characters, you'd do a deal more good than a-tryin' to conwert the Turkeys or Jews either; but I tell you what, in my opinion, you'd find it tougher work to change sich 'earts than any 'eathen blacks as ever was born."

I was a-gettin' precious sick of Alesandrer, and wasn't sorry when Brown said as we was to start for Caro, as is all among the desserts, with pirrymids and spinxes, and crockerdiles, and camels, drummyderries, let alone the 'ippanbottomuppermost, as swarms in the rivers, and would run you down in bathin', not as ever you'd ketch me a-bathin' in Egyp', as them beastly Turkeys is a-doin' it constant, as is their religion, they tells me, which it may be, but not common decency, in my opinion.

You never see anythink more disappintin' than their bazaars, as when I fust 'eard about, I says, I should like to go to, thro' 'avin' seen the Soho Bazaar, when quite a gal, as was set up by widders at the battle of Waterloo, and werry beautiful as Queen Charlotte 'erself took a interest in, as I've 'eard my dear mother say, as is what she did in everythink as didn't cost her nothink, as were a mean character, and that ugly as made her 'usband King George faint away dead, a-callin' out for

brandy, when fust he set eyes on 'er, tho' obligated to marry 'er as was give to snuff, as he couldn't abear, tho' certingly a wonderful rise for 'er, as were that poor as to take in washin' over there, where she come from, and was a-standin' at the wash-tub in Germany, when they come to fetch 'er to be Queen of England, as makes me thankful as I wasn't took away sudden on a washin'-day to be Queen to any one as I'd never see afore, and couldn't, in course, care a farthin' about, tho' a fine family, as I've 'eard my dear mother say; but all turned out fishy, and a many on 'em said to be light in the upper storey, as the sayin' is.

So I says to Miss Pulbrook, "I should like for to see a bazaar," and away we goes; but, law bless you, no more like a bazaar than I am to waxworx, but a deal more like Petticoat Lane, and that narrer and crowded with them Turkeys, a-settin' as if they was stuffed with straw, and all as they've got to sell is rubbish; and as to shawls, why, there ain't a shop in Regent Street as would offer such goods.

Just as me and Miss Pulbrook was a-goin' in, I 'eard a noise, and see parties stare at 'er, as would wear a green wail over 'er 'at, and of all the rows as we got iuto thro' it, I never did; for wo was a-walkin' along, and there sat a man a-'owlin' and a-beggin', and the moment he see Miss Pulbrook, he began a-shriekin' out, and throwed dust in the air,

and rolled about before us. So I pushes 'im away, a-sayin', "Poor object, why ever don't they lock 'im up."

Jest as I'd spoke, the shoutin' as I 'eard and a volley of stones come a-flyin' as thick as 'ail, all about us, and one ketched Miss Pulbrook in the back that sharp as down she went.

I rushes to pull 'er up, when a crowd of boys comes all round us, a-clappin' their 'ands, and 'ootin', so I turns round, and gives it 'em 'ot with my umbreller, and ketched 'old of one boy by the cap, as come off in my 'and, and then the 'ole lot give a rush at me, and down I went, and they dragged at my redicule, as they tore off by main force; my shawl was gone, and so was my bonnet, 'air, and all; and I do believe as they'd 'ave killed me, only for the perlice, as come up with their sticks, and beat the waggerbones off, and I were led thro' the streets with my bare 'ead, and was spit at and abused; and as to Miss Pulbrook, she was wuss off than me, as 'ad lost 'er wail, as they tore to shreds, with 'er gownd tore to ribbins, and covered with mud, and 'er face that bedaubed, as 'er own mother wouldn't 'ave knowed 'er; not as I suppose as she would under any circumstances; for she died when 'er little gal were three year old, as is now over forty-five, if a 'our, as the sayin' is.

We was took to a place, as is like a magis-

trate, and a interpreter he come as said we'd been and insulted their religion.

I says, "Go along with yer; I'm sure neither me nor Miss Pulbrook would 'dream of sich a thing."

"Oh," he says, "you pushed that holy man out of your way, as is sacred."

I says, "Rubbish; a dirty, sore-eyed blackguard like that; sacred, indeed! as come a-playin' the fool with me, as is ways I don't 'old with."

"Well," he says, "you can go; but don't you do it ag'in, or you'll get into trouble;" so me and Miss Pulbrook went 'ome, and never see much of the bazaar.

I says to Brown, "I do think as you'd better take and lock me up in a seraglio; for it ain't safe for no decent woman to walk about 'ere."

He says, "I ain't got no seraglio for to lock you up in; but," he says, "I tell you what I will do: I'll get some old Turkey for to take care of you in 'is'n whilst we're 'ere, then I shall know as you're out of 'arm's way."

I says, "Brown, if any one 'ad told me as you'd 'ave said sich a thing to me, I'd 'ave denied it flat, as didn't ever think as I should 'ave outlived your likin', so as to wish to give me up to a brutal Turkey, as would take and 'am-string me in a jiffey, or drown'd me in a sack, as is their 'abits."

I certingly were 'urt dreadful in my feelin's, not as Brown meant it; for I'm sure he'd tear every Turkey on 'em limb from limb afore they should lay a finger on me, as is a true-born Briton at 'eart, and would not stand none of their Turkey ways with me, for all 'is talkin'.

We'd been at Caro two or three days, and me that unwell, what with the 'eat and the smells, and altogether, when Miss Pulbrook, she says, "The Prince of Wales and 'is sweet is espected to-night."

I says, "You don't mean to say, as he ain't brought 'is good lady with 'im, as I don't 'old with 'im 'avin' no other sweets about 'im," I says.

"Oh!" she says, "the Princess is with 'im, and a good many more."

I says, "You don't mean many more Princesses, as 'ain't been and turned Turkey, I hope, as I'm sure, would be the death of 'is ma, and would sooner lay 'er 'ead on the block, as the sayin' is, than turn anythink."

"Oh!" she says, "he's only his sweet with 'im."

"Well," I says, "then I don't 'old with it, and so I'd tell 'im if I was to fall in with 'im."

"Oh," she says, "sweet means them as is with 'im, as is made up with a live Duke, and a party as 'ave come to write to the papers in Eugland all about it, as will be werry interestin'."

I says, "Well, for my part, if I was a prince, I shouldn't care to 'ave all as I did wrote down in newspapers or a book, for parties to carp and cavil at, as it ain't nobody's business to pry into any one's private life, tho' he is a prince."

We was a-stoppin' close by where the Prince and 'is good lady was, and so I see 'em the next mornin', as is a werry nice young gentleman, I should say, not as I see 'im well, tho' like myself a gettin' stout; and as to 'er, she's got a sweet face, as is 'er fortune, leastways it were, so they say, and certingly she'd 'ave done well in settlin'.

I couldn't abear to see them waggerbones of Turkeys a-starin' at 'er, as won't let nobody 'ave a look at their wives, so why should they look at other people's, but sends 'em about on jackasses all done up like bundles of rags, as ain't no figgers.

I made my obedience werry low one day to the Princess, as goes by the name of Baron Rentfew, as is a good name for 'em, as precious little rent they ever pays, nor taxes neither, as I well remembers Queen Adelaide did used to go thro' the Hammersmith toll-gate free, when William the Fourth was king, as ain't their faults, thro' bein' born to it, so of course nobody wouldn't grudge 'em a toll, nor nothink else, as did ought to 'ave everythink werry grand, with 'orses and carriages, and diamonds and feathers, and all manner like.

I'm sure people likes to see them splendours, and forgets all about the taxes when there's a grand show, as is good for trade, and in course Queen Wictoria is werry right to save up all she can for the children, as don't cost the people a farthin', and will be well off with all their pa's savin's throwed in, yet everybody does like to see grand doin's, as makes everybody else spend the money, even up to the Lord Mayor, as is often drove to overeat 'isself, for the good of trade, with the aldermen as frequently kills theirselves at it.

But, as I was a-sayin', I don't 'old with Royal Families a-goin' about with false names, a-passin' theirselves off like common people, for I'm sure I 'adn't no more consumption as that were the Prince of Wales than nothink, in a white suit, and a wail pinned on to 'is 'at, a-smokin' a cigar like any one else on the banks of the Nile, where we'd landed to see a old ancient temple, as were all flooded thro' the river a-overflowin', as is its 'abits, and they do say fine for the crops, tho' I knows well, down in Lincolnshire it ruined thousands, and swep' away everythink; but then, you see, Egyp' ain't Lincolnshire, and of all the desolate places as ever I see, it's that Nile, as is only fit for crockerdiles, as it swarms with, and will shed tears, I've 'eard say, no doubt thro' bein' wexed at bein' disturbed in their solitudes.

I'm sure I didn't want to go thro' no temples, as it's downright disgraceful to leave a place of worship in that state, as must be like Braintree Church, down Essex way, as the roof were in that state, as people did used to set with umbrellers up at prayers for years, and the parson's surplice like the back of the chimbley for blackness, thro' there bein' no church-rate to wash it with, as is the same among the 'Gypshuns, I suppose, as is a radical lot, not as I believe they've any religion at all, for they do say as they don't believe as women 'ave got any souls, as is downright foolishness to talk, 'cos of coursc if they've got bodies, the same as men, why not souls? but, law, whatever can you espect from them 'Gypshuns, as considers a cat is a sacred edifice, and wusships a cow, as Miss Pulbrook was a-tellin' me about; and then the way as they treated them children of Israel, we all knows about.

Of all the waste of time as it was to set 'em to build them pirrymids, as couldn't never 'ave been of no use, and was only built for to keep them children out of mischief, as we all knows will get at it if idle; and I'm sure them young Israels as I know'd a-livin' up by Great Prescott Street, they was the most industrious young boys as ever I see, and come in to my place, and set to work a-rubbin' away at my six silver tea-spoons, as they made look like now, and wanted me to let 'em try their 'ands

on the tea-pot, as was my grandmother's, as I should 'ave done, only it were not at 'ome thro' bein' lent to a friend. I never will believe what Brown said, as their game was to sweat off the silver.

But as to them pirrymids bein' built for symetery places, as Miss Pulbrook says she's read in a book, I don't think as it's likely, for they ain't the shape for it, a-runnin' up to a pint, as was p'r'aps meant for a infant.

As to them mummies, I ain't a-goin' to speak ag'in the dead, but, oh, my gracious, they must 'ave been uncommon 'omely in life to look like that when berried. Not but what I must say as I've 'eard my own uncle say, as belonged to a City company, thro' bein' the beadle as 'ad once a year to go down into the waults of the parish church and look at a old gent as were berried in a plate-glass coffin annual, as the sayin' is, and he always said looked for all the world like a roast 'are, as the sight on made the 'ead of that company that queer as always 'ad 'im boned or jugged for the future. So there's no sayin' what we may all come to, even when berried decent.

There's the spinx too, as is a reg'lar monster with a flat nose, as looks for all the world like a negro black, tho' I 'ave know'd parties as 'ad their noses quite as flat as negroes; for there was Mr. O'Flinn as would 'avo been a good-lookin' man

but for 'is nose 'avin' been bit off when a boy, at 'is grandmother's funeral, by 'is own uncle, as made 'im 'list for a sojer, and was at the takin' of Serringypatam along with Tippo Saib, with a scalp wound and a silver plate in 'is 'ead, as made 'im a little flighty if ever he took a glass too much; but a wonderful man to 'ear talk, and know'd about all manner.

But as I was a-sayin', whatever them pirrymids was built for, I wish I'd never set eyes on 'em, as it's a wonder I'm alive to tell the tale, as the sayin' is.

Talk of the plagues of Egyp', I do think as them waggerbone boys is the werry wust, and a parcel of lazy fellers as was a-showin' you things as you didn't want to see, and askin' for "black sheep," or somethink like that, as is what they calls money; and I'm sure the way as them boys would drive their donkeys full butt ag'in you a-walkin' peaceful, and not 'avin' eyes behind, of course couldn't see 'em a-comin', and then a-'owlin' like mad 'cos some rubbishin' old pots as was made of raw herth, I should say, got knocked off by me unawares.

I'm sure I ain't one to go and destroy no man's goods and chapels, as the sayin' is, but I should 'ave said as a shillin' would have paid that boy 'andsome, only Miss Pulbrook she got frightened and emptied 'er purse out, as all fell on the ground, and

them boys and men got a-scramblin' for it, and come on all-fours behind me, and throwed me for'ard ag'in a old Turkey as were a-settin' cross-legged on 'is shop-board like a tailor, with a beard like a wenerable billy goat, as shook me off as tho' I'd been offensive in my ways.

Mrs. 'Olmes told me arterwards as he'd go and wash 'iself forty times over at the werry least, thro' a-considerin' me a defilement to 'im, jest the same as tho' I'd been a 'og.

"Well," I says, "'og or no 'og, the next time one of them Turkey waggerbones touches me, I'll let 'im know."

And so I did, leastways, meant to; for we was a-goin' thro' that ere bazaar, as they calls it, when a feller as were a-scllin' lots of beads and shawls, and such likes, give a grin at me, and says, a-speakin' broken English, as is a thing I can't a-bear—

"Buy pretty thing, pretty lady;" and if there wasn't some 'Merrykins a-standin' by as busts out larfin', and one says, as calls 'erself a lady, werry loud thro' the nose, "My! to call that old sea-'oss pretty."

I'd 'ave give 'er a good trimmin', but jest then that feller as was no doubt encouraged by their jeers, took 'old of me, arter a-tryin' to persuade me to buy.

I says, "Paws off, you dirty beast, 'ow dare you touch me," and I give 'im such a job in the chest with my elber, that he shet up in a crump, as the sayin' is, and fell back'ards among all 'is goods, and sent everythiuk flyin', for 'is shop weren't bigger than a London cab.

Up he jumps, and grindin' 'is teeth like ten thousaud crockerdiles, and give me such a shake as out flew my four front teeth as I'd 'ad put in with a gold plate in 'Merryker as is wonderful dentists, and draws your teeth painless with a lump of ice.

I give 'im such a back'ander, as made 'im yell ag'in, and up comes the perlice, as in their confusion give me some sharpish taps with their canes on the back in mistake.

There was a nice row, and a party as were called a daggerman, I suppose thro' a-keepiu' a sharp look out, he come along, and a-speakin' English, says to me, "What made you 'it 'im?"

I says, "I ain't a-goin' to be pulled about by no Turkeys, as I'll let 'em know, if they considers me defilement so do I 'em, so don't choose to 'ave is nasty 'ands on me."

Ho says, "Ho's no Turkey, but a Greek."

"Well," I says, "it's all the same to me; I ain't a-goin' to be insulted by no Greeks as might as woll be Turkeys, in my opinion."

The 'ole place was in a 'ubub, as the sayin' is, and tho' I did find my teeth, they was that bent as put 'em in ag'in I couldn't; as was werry aggrawatin', and the redicule as I got behind my back at where we was a-stoppin', thro' a artist a-makin' a picter on me, and a feller as were a correspondence of a London paper, a-ritin' lines on me, made me reg'lar mad, let alone bein' baffled with my food, and obligated to give up eatin' almons, as is a thing I'm partial to, with nuts in gineral.

I must say one thing for them Turkeys, as they ain't parties to larf at you, for I'm sure they did used to set on their 'ams like oysters, and never moved a mussell, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure them boats as goes up the Nile is all werry well, but swarmin' with rats, and there was a party aboard one day as said she'd know'd Egyp' from a gal, thro' 'avin' come out as a governess to one of them young Parshars, as they calls 'em, as must be wild beasts, I should say, thro' 'avin' a lot of tails, but I'm sure she'd as many tales as any Parshar ever 'ad, and false ones too, for the things as she told was enough to make any one blush ag'in.

She might 'ave been a governess for 'er ignorance, as I've know'd parties myself as 'ave set up in that line and didn't know nothink to teach; but

of all the wulgar, low-lived talk as that woman went on with, I never did.

So, I says to 'er one day, as she were a-goin' on about the ways of them fieldmales in the 'areem, as she called it.

I says, "Well, their goin's on may be as beastly as you says, but it's my opinion as you've been and caught some of their ways," for she was downright disgustin'.

I couldn't 'elp a-larfin' one day, as there were a party a-settin' by where she was, a-tellin' 'ow she'd been in Parshar's own bed-room, as I said was disgraceful in 'er to own to, and that gentleman says as the Parshar didn't 'ave no bed-room, and know'd all about 'is ways, as shet 'er up for a bit.

Not as ever I believed as that 'ere Parshar 'ad gone down on 'is bended knees to 'er and asked 'er to be 'is 'ead wife, for she was as plain as a pike-staff, as the sayin' is, and over forty.

She'd got all sorts of tales about parties a-goin' into them 'areems dressed up like womon, and gettin' drownded for their pains, and 'ow one young fellow got out ag'in, thro' a-shootin' everyone dead with 'is revolver, as isn't the least likely, I should say, as all them places is guarded strict with them black units, as you may count by the 'undreds.

I couldn't abear the sight of them units, as was a bouncin' lot, and looked that glary at you, and

ready for to cut any one's 'ead off with their skimiters in a instant, as must be a low lot for to let theirselves down to sich work as ain't no better than 'ired murderers in my opinion, and so I said to one as come swellin' along one day and shoved me out of the way. So, bein' aggrawated, I went to give 'im a shove with my umbreller, and some-one pushed my harm sudden, and some'ow the 'andle of my umbreller got twisted in 'is turban, and as I give a run for to get out of 'is way, I dragged 'im ever so far, and the 'ole lot come off in a mask.

The row as there was nobody wouldn't believe; for he yelled like wild beasts broke loosc, and kicked and 'it about at me; but I 'ad along with me a werry nice young lad as were a middy aboard one of the steam wessels as 'ad come out 'is fust woyage.

Well, that young boy he wasn't a-goin' to see me set upon by Turkeys thro' bein' a fieldmale in distress like, and took and pitched into that unit and give it 'im 'ot, as I follered up with my umbreller on 'is back-bone till he cried Piccivy, as the sayin' is.

Just then the perlice come, as I showed was all a accidence to one of the daggermen as were armed and well beknown to Brown—so took my part, for I was only a-pintin' out a somethink to that young middy as was quite the stranger with my umbreller,

and didn't put up the ferrel end for fear of givin' anyone a prog unawares.

But, law, it's all luck, as the sayin' is, and them Turkeys believes as it's everyone's destination where he gets to, and so 'ollers out "Aller," whatever 'appens, as is one of their sayin's, not as they've many, thro' always a-callin' out the same; but I keeps my weather eye up, as the sayin' is, for I knows that unit will 'ave 'is wengeance on me, tho' he didn't ought to, but forgive and forget like a Christshun, not as they are give that way partickler, nor yet Christshuns neither, for I'm sure that missionary at our place was a-talkin' one mornin' about massacreein' them 'eathen blacks as wouldn't believe quite cool.

So, I says to 'im, "All I've got to say is as I only 'ope you won't come a-conwertin' me like that;" for 'owever should they be conwerted by parties as can't even talk their langwidge; and as to Bibles and tracks, they ain't much use to them as can't read, in my opinion.

I must say as there was werry grand doiu's with them royal parties as 'ad come *incogniter*, as the sayin' is—not but what they was as well kuow'd as if they'd 'ave come with their crowns on, as the proper dress for both 'im and 'er is three feathers, as looks werry different in a ostrich's tail to what they do out on 'im.

As they do say is as swift as a race-'orse, and that 'ard to ketch, as will outrun a drummederry, as they calls 'em, and well they may, for no drum wasn't ever beat more than me that time as I got on 'im, and all thro' them young fellers as was on their way 'ome from Ingy, and that 'igh sperrits as would 'ave jumped over the moon, and that perlite to me as looked on me like a mother, but terrible boys to smoke, as 'ad turned theirselves brown with it.

But, law, I ain't never one to take no offence where none ain't meant, and can take a deal from one's own countrymen as you wouldn't allow from none of them beastly furriners as is that hawful free partickler up a pirrymid, as is a persition where no one can't take their own part, and so it is as them dirty Arab beasts makes so uncommon free, as a fall would in course be 'ighly dangerous, and bring you to your end sudden.

When we was a-goin' all about Caro, I did often used to see a lot of them poor Turkey women a-settin' on their donkeys, as them nasty black beasts as is called units 'ad got tied by a string, and it did always make my blood bile to think as 'uman bein's should be took about all over the place, for all the world like sacks of fat, and I felt as I'd 'ave give the world for to set 'em free.

I says to Brown, scores of times, 'ow I did long

for to be a man, tho' I felt as, with my umbreller, as I've 'ad a new ferrel put to jest afore I left 'ome, I could precious soon 'ave spiflicated one of them black brutes, and "I'd do it, too," says I, "and glory in it."

Says Brown, "You look out, and don't be a-comin' none of your capers with them Turkeys, as 'll jest give you a taste of the bastinladlelow, as they calls it, on the bare soles of your feet, afore you knows where you are."

I says, "And you'd stand by and see it done. You're a nice 'usband you are, to call yourself a man."

"Well," he says, "don't you go a-interferin' in other parties' affairs."

I says, "It makes me downright wild to see them Turkeys with all them wives."

"Ah," he says, "I often pities 'em myself."

I says, "No doubt, thro' you a-knowin' what the blessin' is of 'avin' one lawful wife."

"Well," he says, "I only knows that if I was a Turkey, and 'ad three like you, I'd precious soon listen to them missionaries as says it's wrong."

I says, "Brown, it's my opinion as you're two-thirds a Turkey a'ready."

Well, it wasn't many days arter, as I were a-walkin' about Caro, thro' 'avin' 'eard say as the Prince of Wales were a-goin' to start along with a

lot of them Turkeys, as goes in flocks for to see the place as their profits comes from. "And right they are," I says to Miss Pulbrook, as were a-tellin' me about 'ow they always went once a-year to a place as is called Mucker.

I says, it's as well as every one should look to their profits, tho' small now-a-days; but I says, I'm sure it won't be quick returns with them if they goes on a-dawdlin' about with their camels and donkeys, and a many on foot, and many on 'em will go a reg'lar mucker, I can see.

I says, I'm sure Queen Wictoria would be glad to know as 'er son should see 'em, as did ought to 'ave a eye to the profits, for 'e's a young man with a small family a-comin' on quick, and as much as he can do to make both ends meet; and won't never leave behind the money as 'is pa did, thro' bein' a savin' character, the same as Old Queen Charlotte, as kep' all 'er old clothes till the day of 'er death, and 'ad 'em sent over to Germany, to 'er poor relations, as showed a feelin' 'eart, to remember 'em after so many years, and then to give 'em all as she didn't want no longer.

So Miss Pulbrook she says, "Oh, bless you, he dursn't go there, for if them Turkeys was to ketch any dog of a Christshun defilin' that 'oly place, they'd stone 'im to death."

I says, "I should like to see 'em dare lay a

finger on 'im, tho' I do not 'old with 'is a-makin' that free with them Turkeys; and a-lettin' 'is good lady walk arm-in-arm with that there Wiceroy, as looks a wicious waggerbone."

Well, we was a-waitin' about, with the sun that 'ot, tho' only February, as made a alpaca dress unbearable, and there was such crowds of people, and them dratted donkey boys, and beggars, and 'orsemen a-gallopiu', and all of a sudden the crowd came a-flyin' along, and fellers on 'orseback a-drivin' 'em afore 'em with whips and sticks, like dust before the wind, as the sayin' is.

I never was so frightened, for one waggerbone came at me full gallop, and if I 'adn't put up my umbreller sudden in the 'orse's face, he'd 'ave run me down as safe as 'ouses, as the sayin' is.

I was that knocked and shoved about by the crowd, as didn't seem a bit to mind bein' drove over, or 'it about, as wouldn't suit me.

So I says to Miss Pulbrook, "It's all werry fine for Turkeys and sich like, as is used to it, to be drove over; but let's get out of the way."

Jest then I 'eard a-yellin' aud a row, and a lot or them ragamuffins a-comin' flyin' with parties on 'orseback, a-rushin' at 'em with sticks and whips, as come down on their 'eads that sharp, as give 'em toko, as the sayin' is.

So I gives a bolt for it, and come sudden ag'in

a string of them donkeys, as was a-takin' them Turkey ladies out for a ride, a ugly black beast of a unit as were walkin' fust, he 'eld up 'is stick for to stop me, but I give 'im such a prog with my umbreller in the stomick, as doubled 'im up pretty quick, and made 'im back ag'in the donkey, as backed ag'in the others, as turned round and flung out with 'is 'eels, and ketched Miss Pulbrook in the back, and sent 'er a-flyin'.

I give the brute a dig in the ribs, and laid about me well with my umbreller, and then ketched 'old of one of them poor bundled up objecks, and says, "Run for it, and go 'ome to your friends;" but, law, she give sich a squall, and shook me off that wiolent as sent me a-spinnin', and down I set with a crash in the sand, and if all them donkeys did come over me in a mask as was bad enough, let alone them black waggerbones give it me that 'ot over my back and shoulders, as made me roar ag'in and then they all went off at a gallop.

When I come to myself there was Miss Pulbrook a reg'lar rack and ruin, a-tryin' to straighten 'er bonnet.

So when I got up and pulled myself together a bit, I says, "I won't stand it, and will 'ave my rights, and will speak to the Prince of Wales 'isself, as 'll see me righted, I knows, if it's only for his ma's sake."

"Well," says Miss Pulbrook, "we'd better get 'ome now, for," she says, "you're a awful figger with your gownd all out at the gethers, and your 'air tore off your ead."

I says, "Escuse me," I says, "but you ain't nothink to brag about in the way of looks yourself, as 'ave lost your chignon, to say nothink of your nose bein' a-bleedin'."

When we got back to where we was stoppin' the good lady told me as it were a mercy as I 'adn't been killed, for she says them Turkey women considers it a defilement to be touched by a Christshun, as they calls dogs.

I says, "I should like to ketch any of them nasty beasts a-callin' me a dog, as is a gross insult to any one bein' a fieldmale, and wouldn't leave a bit of my umbreller 'ole over their bodies," as I could make 'em feel it, thro' not 'avin' much on in the way of clothes.

I must say as that Princess of Wales is a werry nice young woman as ever I see, and shows up well among them ugly 'eathens, as dursn't show their faces, a uasty, sore-eyed lot, as is all you can see of 'em, and shows their foolishness in not coveriu' up their faces all over, for their eyes is eat up with soreness, as is no doubt a-owiu' to the sand, as I've 'eard parties say as our sojers brought over from Egyp' many years ago, and was obligated to

build a 'ospital for it near St. Martin's Church in the Strand, as is a word I can't remember, but somethink like Opodildoc, the same as what they cures the clump feet with in Oxford Street, but 'owever they do it I can't think, for tho' a fine thing well rubbed in for lumbago, I don't consider good for the eyes, and certingly might reduce a chilbain, but never a clump foot.

I couldn't help a-thinkin' as that Princess looked anxious, no doubt, 'avin' them babbies at home on 'er mind, as must be about their teeth, and tho' no doubt Queen Wictoria does 'er werry best to soothe the gums, as a little borax and 'oney is a fine thing for, but I do 'ope as she wont 'ave them launched, as only 'ardens arterwards, and werry often a lump of sugar will do it, or a lobster claw, not as it's a thing as I'd ever trust a child with, as might slip into the windpipe sudden, as would pretty soon scttle all the Royal Families as ever was born or thought on.

I'm sure it's lucky as she didn't bring 'em with 'er, as I don't believe any child could live thro' it, as I was a-sayin' I never should 'ave no peace night nor day with children about, and them crockerdiles all over the place, as 'ill come up out of the water, and swaller a dog as easy as a pill.

I shan't never forget a-talkin' to the Prince of Wales, as I didn't know no more than the child

unborn, and wouldn't have thought as it were 'im a-smokin' like anybody else, as in course is a thing as Royal Families never does at 'ome, as would 'ang about the curtings, and make their pallises smell like so many tap-rooms.

I 'ave 'eard as Queen Wictoria can't abear the sight on, let alone the smell, thro' bein' German by distraction 'erself, as the sayin' is, not but what I 'ave knowed Germans myself as smoked, and in their own country, too, as well as at a large sugar baker's near the Commercial Road, where hundreds of Germans was employed, not as I should say they was a sweet-toothed lot to look at 'em.

I was a-settin' all alone a-gettin' my breath, and a-waitin', for the others 'ad gone for to see the spinx, as they calls it, for we'd come out a largish party to see them pirrymids, as a werry little on went a long way with me, and as to gettin' on a drummyderry, I never should but for them as persuaded me to; and as I were a-settin', a lot of gentlemen come up on 'orseback, and stopped jest where I was, and gets off their 'osses, and one on 'em, as were a nice-lookin' young man, he come up to where I was, and looks at me 'ard; and at last he says, "You must bo English."

"Well," I says, "who says I ain't, and let 'em prove their words, for," I says, "I'm reg'lar English all over, for that matter, both sides to the backbone,

not as I'm one for to despise any one as ain't, and can't 'elp it, like the Siamese twins, as was born so."

He didn't make no answer, but goes on to say, "Whatever brought you 'ere?"

"Ah," I says, "you may well ask that, you may, a-meetin' me 'ere in this sandy wilderness, as 'ave 'ad a narrer escape of my life thro' a drummyderry, as is a ill-contrived beast for any body as ain't used to 'orseback; for," I says, "never will I trust myself on one on 'em ag'in not if you was to crown me on the spot."

He says, "Why did you get on a drummyderry?"

I says, "Why, in course for to see the pirrymids;" for nearly all the rest 'ad been afore and said as you could get a better view on 'em off a camel's back, and as the fust sight was the best.

"Well," I says, "I don't seem to care about them pirrymids, as is old ancient places, no doubt, but I don't seem to fancy them myself."

"Oh," says the others "do come," and partickler them two 'Arris, as was on their way 'ome from Ingy, and friends of Brown's, thro' bein' engineers, and says to me, "You must go if we carries you there on our backs by turns, for," they says, "it's downright ridic'lous for you to come all the way from Mile End to Egyp' and not see them pirrymids, as is for all the world like a-goin' to the pump and not gettin' no water."

So in course I give in, and was 'urried that dreadful to jine the party as were a-goin' to start betimes in the mornin', and so we did along with a daggerman, as is a protection ag'in them thieves and beggars as swarms about the place a-askin' for black sheep, for all the world like them little blackguards as is always about Whitechapel a-pesterin' you to death, and a-eadgin' and stealin' when they gets a chance.

I'm sure it's a wonder as any one in Egyp' 'ave got a rag left on their backs, for the way as I were 'awled and pulled about by both boys and men was downright violence.

I certingly did get a werry nice old donkey for to take me as far as where you takes to the ferry-boat, and all the way I never was so worreted and persecuted by them crowds, as come all round me, and it's a wonder as that donkey didn't take to kickin', not as he could 'ave done it if he'd tried, for he was that crowded as he couldn't 'ave used 'is legs to kick out with, was it ever so.

He didn't seem to mind the crowd, as certingly did 'elp 'im along with their shovin' and pushin', and seemed to carry both 'im and me.

I never were more terrified in my life at the boats, with their boatmen a-fightin' for me, as three or four on 'em got 'old of me, one 'ad my scarf, as one was a-pullin' one way, and another another, till

I was werry nigh strangled, and if I 'adn't laid about me pretty stiff with my umbreller, I should 'ave been tore to bits like a wild-beast show, as I well remembers the tiger a-gettin' loose from the Commercial Road, and might 'ave dewoured the 'ole neighbourhood, but was caught in the act under a brewers'-dray, and 'ticed back to 'is den with a raw bullock's 'ead, as seemed to pacify 'im thro' bein' partial to them things as suits 'is savage nater.

I dou't think as anythink would 'ave saved me, only them Arabs was that wiolent as two ou 'em knocked me back'ards into a boat, and I fell soft thro' it bein' full of passengers, as rowed off before I got on my legs ag'iu.

I was ever so long a-puttin' myself to rights, and 'eard them fellers a-'owliu' and a-screechin' arter me like bears as 'ave lost their dams.

I should 'ave been pretty comfortable in that boat, only one of the donkeys as was aboard, he began a-nibblin' at my Leghorn bonnet, as he took for 'is nat'ral food thro' bein' straw, as I wore for to keep the sun off, and when I give 'im a tap not for to make so free, werry nigh tipped me over into the river, thro' a-givin' a drive at me with 'is side.

No wouder as them sojers as was sent out to conquer them 'Gypshuns and Bonyparty 'ad bad

eyes; for of all the 'eat and glare as ever I see, it's that dessert, as there ain't a tree, let alone no fruit to be found on.

When we was got to land ag'in there was donkeys, and camels, and drummyderries in strings, and them wild-lookin' wretches, as they calls 'em, Arabs and them Bedwings, as 'll fly off with you in a moment, and stands a-watchin' for you like a tarrier at a rat-'ole, as the sayiu' is, and tries to sell you with curiosities as did used to belong to the Romans, and all manner.

Some on 'em speaks English wonderful, and is more decenter in their ways, leastways one was with me, but not till I'd 'ad terrible rows with the others, as I see was a-tryin' to turn me into redicule, as is what I won't stand not from no Bedwing livin'.

The others 'ad wandered on, so, thro' bein' alone, I felt lonesome like, and when them Bedwings come up fust I was that short with 'em as showed I know'd my way about.

For when a feller says as he'd got a donkey as would carry me like the wind,

I says, "Not bein' the wind, you may keep your donkey to yourself," as were a little mite of a thing as I wouldn't 'ave trusted myself on not for all the pirrymids as ever was 'eard on, let alone cruelty to animals, as is a thing I don't old with; for I'm

sure that poor thing didn't seem not to 'ave strength for to put one leg afore the other.

We was a good large party as 'ad come, and there was donkeys and drummyderries, as were a-wanderin' about like Jews. So I 'ollers to 'em to come back.

So young 'Arris he run up and says, "Oh! I thought you'd 'ave been on your drummyderry by this time."

I says, "Bless you, I won't trust myself on a mask of deformity like that."

He says, "You must, or we shall 'ave to leave you behind."

"What!" I says, "in a dessert. Why, it would be wuss than murder, as would put me out of my misery, any 'ow, at once, without dyin' by hinches in a dessert; but for to leave me behind is ag'in all conscience."

Well, as we'd come in a boat, I says, "I'll set in the boat, and wait for you to come back."

"No," says they, "you won't, 'cos we ain't a-comin' back this way."

I never was more took aback. So I says, "Then 'ere goes for the drummyderry."

I never did see such a dirty beast as it were, with sich a thing for a saddle, a-kneelin' down on 'is two forelegs.

Well, they gets me on to 'im, and says, "Are you all right?"

I says, "Yes, I think so." Up gets the beast, and off I goes like a shot, as the sayin' is, and tho' I fell easy on the sand, it give me a shock, partickler as I come down on a little 'arf-naked Arab boy as 'owled like mad, and throwed dust at me, a-spittin' about frightful.

I was soon 'oisted up ag'in, and thro' bein' 'eld on didn't slip off no more when the anymile got up; but, law, he no sooner began to walk than I says, "Take me down! stop 'im! help!" for I never did such a sensation as it were, as sea-siekness is a fool to.

It wasn't no use me a-'ollerin', for nobody paid no attention, and that beast went a-wanderin' on a-swingin' me about, and I was that frightened 'as he'd set up a gallop and carry me off for ever and ever.

I never did feel such agony as that ride; every bone in my body was a-breakin', with my head a-swimmin', and I'd not a lace nor a string about me as didn't give way. At last I couldn't stand it no longer, but give the beast a pull with the 'ook of my umbreller across 'is nose, and if he didn't kneel down ag'in sudden and sent me a-flyin'.

I must say as the party as 'ad took us bo'aved werry perlite, and told me it wasn't 'is doin's; but

I says, "Young man, 'owever am I to get anywheres to be put tidy."

"Oh," he say, "we're a-goin' to pitch the tent, and we shall be all right.

I says, "Whatever you do then pitch it strong, as a gush of wind might carry us away and be berried in the sand, the same as cities 'as been afore now, as did ought to be dug up;" for it must be an awful end to be filled up with sand, as the least bit in your eye will send you nearly wild, the same as Mrs. Malins, in the Old Kent Road, as a woman with two donkey-loads throwed a 'andful in 'er face a-standin' at 'er own door, and only jest a-tellin' 'er not to 'it them poor beasts that 'ard with a bit of iron-'oop as didn't seem to 'ave the strength of a mouse, with them sacks on their backs, and sand a thing as weighs 'eavy, as couldn't bear it no longer, but took and rolled on their backs, as in course spilt the sand all over the place, and made 'er that savage, not as it's a thing I'd ever 'ave in my place, for it's only dirt and a scratchy thing to clean with, as a little ile and whitenin' is a deal better, partickler for a Brittainer metal tea-pot, as Emma Childers reg'lar ruined mine with scourin'-paper, along with the 'andles of the parlour doors, as she would clean with it tho' lackered.

But, law bless you, my 'ead got that confused

a-travellin' about, and a-thinkin' as them Arabs, as I always thought was 'orses, but a wild-lookin' lot, might carry me off as will gallop all day long across them desserts, and I do believe would ride to the old gentleman like the beggar on 'orseback, as the sayin' is.

Miss Pulbrook she made me that savage with 'er ridic'lous ways, as 'ad a guide-book as she was a-readin' constant on the sly, and then a-comin' out with things as if she'd know'd all about 'em, a-standin' me out as the Nile did ought to overflow for the sake of the rice as grow'd in it.

I says, "Go along with your nonsense," for I says, "it's well known to any one as is a cook as rice is a thing as too much water will spile, and requires great care in bilin'."

Then a-sayin' as the ostrich would eat iron, and glory in it; as no doubt is a fine thing for the constitution when taken proper, and brought Mrs. Capper's little gal back from death's door, as were wore to a thread paper, with 'er 'and that transparent as you could see the light thro' it.

But the rubbish as she'd got in 'er 'ead about them pirrymids, a-sayin' as them higlophics as is on 'em means a somethink as did used to be thought the seven wonders of the world afore steam was inwented, nor gas found out; but, as I says, who-

ever is to tell what they 'ad or what they 'adn't as ain't left nothink behind 'em to show as might 'ave been gas and steam both.

Whatever people can want a-goin' a-travellin' about them parts, I can't think, as is only fit for wild beasts and sich like; and as to coffee, as is called Turkey arter 'em, it's downright muck as they gives you, with all the grounds left in, and they won't take the trouble to make it proper, as I always biles it myself with the white of a hegg or bit of sole-skin, as will fine it as clear as crystshul, as the sayin' is, but not the same refreshin' as a cup of tea; and as to coker, I'd as soon 'ave mutton broth for breakfast myself.

But, law, them Turkeys is a dirty lot, as won't take no adwice, and some of their 'oles and corners wants a-routin' out fearful, as the rats a-swarmin' shows, as will never come where they ain't encouraged.

I always says to the gal, don't go a-throwin' bones nor nothink in the dust'ole for to encourage 'em, nor yet lobster-shells, as will bring blue-bottles as big as donkeys for miles, and be a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The same as Mrs. Masskell's, next door to me in South Lambeth, as was that filled up, as made the dustman forget 'isself frightful in his langwidge, thro' a-refusin' 'im a pint of beer, as is well worth while, or they never will take it

away thoroughly, and grumble over cabbage-leaves and broken crockery.

But as to sayin' as cinder-sifters makes fortunes out of what they finds throwed into dus'bins, I don't believe it, tho' I 'ave 'eard say as the dust 'eaps at Kings Cross was a fortune, close ag'in where the railroad station comes in from Barnet. But, law, people do ezagerate that frightful, and, for my part, I never believes nothink as I 'ears, and only 'arf what I sees, as the sayin' is; and if Brown don't get a deal of money for 'is pains as is tremenjous, I shall begrudge a-comin' to Egyp'

Talk of pains! I never did anythink like them as I suffered thro' that drummyderry a-joltin' me to death pretty nigh. Roomatics is a fool what my back and shoulders was, and not for all the pirrymids as ever was built would I go ag'in; and them beastly Arabs, as they calls 'em, a-pretendin' to 'elp you only for to rob and insult you.

Never shall I forget my feelin's at them pirrymids, inside and out.

I'd sich a awful turn a-goin' inside the pirrymid, a-stoopin' my 'ead and a-nearly breakin' my back, and 'adn't gone far afore I felt that suffocation with the stifly place as mado mo 'oller out as I would turn back. But, law bless you, I couldn't, for they was all a-comin' in a crowd behind me,

and a feller a-goin' first with a torch as smelt dreadful pitchy.

So they all 'ollers out to me, "Go on, Mrs. Brown, we're a-goin' to see the King's Chamber," as in course I thought would be well worth seeing thro' bein' that awful grand as them kings of Egyp' always was.

But, law, the passages was that narrow as I'm sure no king couldn't never 'ave stooped to go thro' sich narrer places, with your 'ead a-duckin' down all the time, and that slippery as keep my feet I couldn't, and of all the 'eat—it was a reg'lar wapour-bath.

The Bedwings kep' a-flyin' along that rapid, as keep up with them I couldn't, a-stumblin' over everythink as was in the way, and werry nigh put my 'ip and shoulder out ever so many times, let alone my ankle bein' sprained to splinters at every step.

I never should 'ave got on at all, only two of them bare-footed fellers, as was enormous sizes, 'ad 'old on me, and dragged me along a passage as were all down 'ill, and there we was stopped by a large lump of rock, and I nat'ral thought as we'd come to the end of; but, law bless you, in a instant them fellers drags me over that rock, and up a passage as were all up 'ill.

I 'adn't no breath to 'oller with, nor strength for

nothink, and was ready to die with the awful fatigue, when, if them Bedwing waggerbones didn't set up sich a fearful 'owlin' and shoutin' as made me think they was a-goin' to massacree me.

So I screams out "Murder" as loud as ever I could, for all them waggerbones begun a botherin' for their black sheep, leastways so them young officers said as was a-follerin' close on my 'eels, and I do think as them Bedwings meant mischief, only them officers used their sticks pretty free as showed as they didn't mean to stand no nonsense, as is the best way with them Bedwings, as is reg'lar cannibals in my opinion, and wouldn't stick at nothink, as the sayin' is.

You never see such a place for kings to live in as that pirrymid, as is as big as St. Paul, and no daylight.

I certingly was glad as I'd see it, for I'm sure it made me feel that thankful as I 'adn't been born a king, nor yet a mummy neither.

Them young officers said as there was lots more galleries to be seen up above, as they'd 'ave to climb up to.

So I says, "Thank you, I've 'ad enough, and would rather go out in the open air, tho' I certingly did dread bein' dragged about thro' them passages all the way back, but I was a-pantin' for daylight ag'in, so out I went, and never was more thankful

than when I got under the 'eavens, as looked that wonderful bright and clear arter that dungeon of a 'ole.

I'd brought jest a little refreshment with me, as I took on the quiet, and there I set on a lump of stone a-coolin' myself, when one of them Bedwings come up and says, "Up, up!" "Yes," I says, "very 'igh up," a-pintin' with my umbreller, "and thankful I am as I ain't up it."

He says, "Lady go one day."

I says, "I shall see," and kep' a-standin' with my back a-lookin' up it as is a tremenjous 'ight.

That Bedwing chap had moved off, and I was glad as he were gone, and was a-turnin' round to set down ag'in when I see 'im a-comin' back with two others.

He pints to me, and them fellows come to me.

I says, "Whatever do you want? I ain't got no black sheeps for you."

The Bedwing, he say, "Lady goin' up?"

I says, "Never;" I should as soon 'ave thought of flyin' as goin' up that tremenjous 'ight as it is.

There ain't no doubt as it ain't proper for any one as is a fieldmale for to wander about them places alone, for some of the others as 'ad come out of the pirrymid 'ad wandered away to look at that spinx, and if them fellers didn't pounce on me like wultures, and there I was like in a wice, and off

they set a-boundin' up that pirrymid with me, a-skippin' like monkeys.

I 'ad no idea as them steps was that steep, and 'ow them fellers got me up, I can't think.

I 'adn't no breath to 'oller, tho' I was dreadful put out with two on 'em a-'oldin' me tight by each arm, and another shovin' behiud full butt ag'in my will, so they drags me up steps that steep as the 'uman leg can't reach up to, and when you're up there ain't nothink but miles of sand to look at all round, as is downright waste, tho' they do say it's a thing as is useful in buildin'.

It were all Miss Pulbrook's fault as I were left alone, for she'd been and promised to stick by me all day long, and then must go off a-caperin' arter 'er spinxes and rubbish, a-pretendin' as them young officers would 'ave 'er as I'm sure never give 'er a thought, and 'polergised like true gentlemen as they was, for leavin' me as certingly were 'ighly dangerous, as a crockerdile might carry any one off in a iustaut, when no one ain't a-lookin' out for you, and that's 'ow it were as them Arabs outside ketched me alone, and took a mean advantage of me, and 'urries me up, and never was I more thankful than when I got down ag'in; and I do believe as them fellers would have tore me to bits, a-'ollerin' for black sheep, as they calls it, but I 'adn't no black sheep to give 'em, and when the

others come out of the pirrymid they satisfied 'em some'ow; but as to black sheep, it's their ways to give and take 'em, for I 'ears as they give the Princess of Wales one the other day, as eat out of 'er 'and quite friendly. So in course she couldn't 'ave the 'eart to eat off 'is leg arter that, and will bring 'im 'ome for the children to play with, as is a good thing to make 'em fond of dumb animals, as softens the 'eart, and I never would allow mine not even to tease the kitten, and always says if you will play with 'er you must espect to be scratched. Well, while I was a-talkin' to that young gentleman as smiled werry plcasant, and seemed to 'ave a bad cough, for he kep' a-coughin' and 'oldin' up 'is 'andkercher, I see as they was a-puttin' up our tent, and some gentleman come and spoke to 'im as took off 'is 'at to me quite elegant, and goes away, and then all the others come a-'urryin' up to me, and one says, "What's he been a-sayin' to you?" and Miss Pulbrook says, "Tell us all about it."

I says, "About what?"

"Why," she says, "what the Prince of Wales 'ave been sayin' to you."

I says, "What Princc of Wales?"

"Why," says one of 'em, "didn't you know 'im? We see you thro' the glasses a-chattin' away to 'im."

"Law," I says, "he never could be the Prince

of Wales as 'ave been a-listenin' to my gabble, as shows he's quite the gentleman."

So they says, "Come into the tent and tell us all about it when we've 'ad our dinner;" and I says, "Thankful I shall be for refreshments as I'm sure I requires, for never in my life 'ave I 'ad such a mornin', but," I says, "I ain't a-goin' to make myself ridic'lous, nor yet any gentleman as is a gentleman as talks to me over a dessert, and as to 'im a-bein' the Prince, that's best know'd to 'imself, and so that's all about it;" for I was werry much put out with 'em all a-leavin' me alone, as them Bedwings might 'ave made a mummy on in no time.

I certingly were thankful when we got to that tent as were pitched near the pirrymid, and we got some refreshments, as the 'eat were awful.

The Prince of Wales he had a tent too, but nobody didn't take no notice, thro' 'im bein' *incogniter*, as is French for unbeknowed, and in course spoke to me fust, nor didn't forget me, and was werry perlite a-bowin' to me when he see me another day in Caro; tho', in course, if I had know'd 'im I should 'ave asked after his good lady, and 'oped as 'is Royal ma were well.

And I should 'ave spoke to 'im about the way as them Turkey women is treated, as is murder all over, and I'm sure the tales as I've 'eard is enough

to make your flesh creep; but as I'm a-goin' into one of them 'areems I shall be able to speak better another time, and p'r'aps may see Queen Wictoria 'erself one day, as I'm sure never would 'ave encouraged sich ways, for tho' they are but Turkeys, yet did ought to behave like Christshuns, and not 'ave a lot of wives and columbines, as is all werry well in the theayter when they're only a-makin' believe, but is shameful ways of goin' on in your own 'ome, and did ought to be put down, in my opinion.

I couldn't help a-feelin' for one poor creetur as I 'eard tell about in them 'areems, as was the mother of children as is allowed to live if gals, but strangled if boys, for fear as they should be full-growed Turkeys.

Well, poor thing, she 'ad two little boys as she got the doctor to say was gals, and she kep' 'em that secret ever so long, and then they was found out one day and massacred at once before 'er eyes, and then she took on so as to go mad, and then they berried her quite grand, and a marble tomb as they said was the laws; as in my opinion is what Queen Wictoria did ought to put down, as I'm sure they'd listen to 'er, for the way as they went on about that Prince of Wales was downright wonderful, a-turnin' out of their palliises for 'im as in course is only their duty; as Queen Wictoria would give 'em a 'earty welcome, with the best of every-

think when they comes 'ere to London; as keeps reg'lar open 'ouse for kings and queens, as is only nat'ral, thro' bein' 'er own relation, as she always stops along with 'em in goin' abroad.

For I remembers when Brown and me was at Brussels, where the lace and sprouts come from, Queen Wictoria she come there, along with the rest of the Royal Family and lived at the pallis, and must 'ave been werry much 'urt, when that King and Queen of Brussels come to London, for if they didn't come on the quiet, and keep it quite dark, and go to a hotel close ag'in Bond Street; as was too bad, a-makin' Queen Wictoria cut a bad figger, and of course she can't never go and stop with them ag'in over there.

Tho' p'r'aps arter all it is not werry good manners in them Turkeys for to intrude their pallises and things on the Prince of Wales, when he wants to be unbeknown, and then to go and pay for everythink for 'im is what I shouldn't care about myself, and don't 'old with them Turkeys a-standin' treat for everybody as is with 'im; and they do say as 'is wisit the time he come afore, without 'is good lady, cost that Parshar as were livin' then, fifty thousand pounds, and this wisit will cost a deal more; as if the Prince of Wales wanted any favours, and wasn't ready to pay 'is way like any other English gentleman a-travellin'.

One gentleman where we was a-stoppin' at Caro, he was always a-goin' on about it.

So I says, in course the Prince of Wales don't want for nothink, as is rollin' in riches, leastways, did ought to be, if he'd 'is rights; for it's well-known as the English is the richest people in the world, and if the Prince wanted millions, in course would give it 'im, and not let 'im be under no obligations to no Turkeys nor Parshars neither.

We was werry comfortable for Egyp' where we was a-stoppin', but I must say as it ain't a place as I'd come to for pleasure, for the 'eat alone is enough to kill you, and, law, the dirt; but that's what they're used to, and don't feel it, and don't mind bein' eat up alive, as gives me the shudders to think on.

I can't say as I 'olds with them Turkeys' wittles, as is called kabobs, as is bits o' mutton all spice and things on skewers; and as to lamb, why it ain't worth the name on it, as in a general way, is skinny nd no fat to speak on.

As to the fowls, it's my opinion as they're reg'lar mummies, as 'ave been stewed over and over ag'in in rice, as is a thing I don't care for myself, tho' many did used to eat it by the bushel, when the potatoes failed many years ago, as is a thing I can dine without myself, tho' many cannot, partickler the Irish, as 'ave been know'd to live on 'em by the year together, as is p'r'aps the reason as they

calls 'em murphies, thro' a likin' 'em under biled and 'ard in the middle.

But, law, parties do differ that wide about wittles, as there ain't no tellin' what'll suit anybody, for I'm sure, to see Brown eat tripe, you'd think it was 'is daily bread, as the cats and dogs may 'ave it all for me, along with liver, as I considers their privileges, as must live as well as us, tho' I never would give 'em what is fit for Christshuns.

As for them Turkeys, they eats lots of wegetables and fruit, and all manner, as I calls rubbish; and as to a pumpkin, it's what I wouldn't offer a dog, yet 'ave knowed French parties as made soup on it, and them 'Merrykins makes it into pies, as ain't no more like pies than I am, but more like a rich custard, as s a thing as a little on goes a long way with me.

I did think as 'Merryker were the place for muskeeteers, but, law bless you, Egyp' is that overrun with them, as would eat your 'ead off but for sleepin' in nets, as protects you.

What it must be in summer I can't think, as never knows what winter is, as can't be 'ealthy, for I'm sure a mild winter is wuss than a six weeks' frost for the 'ealth, but no doubt them as is delicate, finds Egyp' a comfort; not but some only comes to die, as would 'ave been 'appier at 'ome along with their mothers and friends to nuss and comfort 'em to the last.

I'm sure as I shouldn't never keep my 'ealth in Egyp', and as to them baths as they gives you, they're downright cold-bloodod murder, as was werry nigh the end of me, as were over persuaded by Miss Pulbrook to try one, and every one said would suit my constitution thro' bein' a full 'abit.

I'd been a fortnight at Caro, and didn't feel over well some'ow, as I think were brought on by a 'ot sun a-blowin' with a sharp wind, as seemed that searchin', as chilled the werry marrer in your bones, as the sayin' is; and as to gettin' warm in bed, I couldn't, tho' I did take a somethink 'ot the last thing.

So they all says to me, "Why not 'ave a Turkish bath, as 'll make the skin act, and cure you in 'arf a 'our."

I says, "I don't want my skin to act," as is ridic'lous thro' bein' not its natur.

"Oh," they says, "it's wonderful what it will do in a 'ot climate, as checked prespiration often proves fatal."

Mrs. Clumber, a lady as were one of the party, she told me thro' 'avin' lived years in them parts as she knowed many a one took sudden, as Turkish baths 'ad saved.

So I says, "In course no one didn't ought to fly in the face of natur, and in course Turkish baths is

natural to Turkeys, but I should say wouldn't suit the British eonstitution."

"Oh," says young Elwis, as is own nophew to Mrs. Clumber, "it's wonders as it will do for raee-'orses, as is British all over."

"Well," I says, "I ain't no raee-'orse, tho' British to the back bone."

Mrs. Clumber, she says, "I'm a-goin' to 'ave one myself, thro' a bad bile as I've got as won't supplieate; and," she says, "if you'd 'ave one, you'd look twenty years youngor for it, as gives you a new skin and a eomplexion like a infant."

I says, "I don't want no new eomplexion, and as to bein' twenty years younger, it would only be twenty years more troubles, let alone makin' me no mateh for Brown, as is well on in life."

For all as they said I didn't faney 'avin' a Turkeys bath, and if I'd 'ad the least eonsumption of what it was like, not all the world and his wife, as the sayin' is, should 'ave dragged me into it.

It was a remarkable elose day as we went, Mrs. Clumber and me, and thro' not a-feelin' well some-'ow, I didn't faney it; but Mrs. Clumber she persuaded me, a-sayin' it would set me up for life.

As soon as ever I got in, there was a stifly sort of a feelin', like perpetual washin'-day, eome over me, and of all tho 'orrid-lookin', ugly beasts of women as was to bathe you, I never did.

Some on 'em as black as a coal, and others that old and shrivelled, as looked for all the world like witches.

I must say as I didn't espect as I were a-goin' to be treated like I were, for of all the strippin', rubbin', soapin', and a-scrapin' at any one like curry-combin' a 'orse.

What I suffered was enough to kill a helephant; they took and laid me down and walked up my back-bone on their knees, and cracked all my jints till I 'ollered ag'in, with 'em a-drawiu' out my arms, and a-crackin' my knuckles, and a-bendin' back my fingers and wristes.

As for the 'eat, I thought die I must.

Then they took and led me to another part, and if they didn't take and deluge me in cold water.

I'd been a-groanin' and a-moanin' all the time, but when it come to that, I 'ollers out to Mrs. Clumber, and says, "'Elp, they're a-murderin' me;" but, law bless you, they dashed gallons of cold water in my face and down by back, as made me shudder ag'in. Mrs. Clumbers, she says, "It's all right, and will do you good."

Well then, they took me back ag'in to a 'ot place to dry me, and kep' me there a-bilin' and a-streamin' down ever so long.

Then Mrs. Clumber she come in, as says, "Oh my, ain't your wains a-swellin' in your temples."

I says, "In course they are, for my blood's a-bilin' all over my body, and," I says, "if it wasn't for the want of clothes, I'd jest rush out as I am."

She says, "As would be your death certain, without a-goin' thro' the coolin' room."

I says, "Wherever is it, for stand this 'eat no longer I can't, as am drippin' and flayed alive," for they'd been and scraped my flesh off in flakes.

"Oh," she says, "it's all right," and she calls out, and one of them negro black creeturs led me out into a place, with sofies like round the room, and put me on a sort of a gownd, and a towel round my 'ead, and made me lay down.

I was that reg'lar done up as I thought die I must every hinstant. When they'd laid me down they give me a cup of coffee, as was beastly, and a pipe.

I says to Mrs. Clumber, "I ain't a-goin' to smoke this."

"Oh," she says, "you must."

I only took three whiffs, when I turned that bad as made me feel a-dyin'

I says to Mrs. Clumber, "Give my love to Brown, and tell 'im as I died thro' a-doin' my duty," and then I went reg'lar off, and don't remember nothink more but findin' myself dressed, with my 'air on 'ind part before, and brought 'ome more dead than alive, and if it 'adn't been for them a-

keepin' pourin' brandy down my throat, a-thinkin' every moment my last gasp, I don't think as I should 'ave lived thro' the night, and when the English doctor see me, he said as I were too full a 'abit to bear them baths.

I says, "I'm sure it ain't my 'abits, for I never took one afore and never will ag'in." But it was no use me a-talkin', for Mrs. Clumber would stand me out that it was all my own fault, because I would keep on a-'ollerin' and a-talkin', and that it was as made me bad; for you did ought to take them baths on the quiet, as is werry well for beastly Turkeys, as wants scrapin' no doubt, but reg'lar scarified my flesh, as is nat'ral tender.

Mrs. Clumber she says to me one day, "Would you like, Mrs. Brown, for to see the inside of one of them there 'areems?"

"Well," I says, "that depends; for I've 'eard say as them as goes in may p'r'aps never come out ag'in."

"Oh," sho says, "there ain't no fear of that."

"Ah," I says, "there's a deal of fear of it, tho' p'r'aps no danger, tho' I've 'eard say as if one of them Turkeys sees any one in them 'areems as he takes a fancy to, he's only got to throw 'is 'andkercher at 'er and she's in for life."

"Oh, bless you," says she, "that's all rubbish.

I've been in often enough, and come out all right, with no 'andkerchers at me."

"Ah," I says, "but you may be the pitcher at the well, as the sayin' is, and go once too often."

Not as I thought there was any fear of any Turkey in 'is senses a-fancyin' 'er, tho' she was a reg'lar old goose, and would talk about 'avin' been a beauty in 'er time, as is impossible, for she's got a reg'lar toad-skin complexion, and I do think I never did see sich a pair of green eyes as is weak and watery, and one shoulder ever so much 'igher than the other, and, they do say, a brimstone of a temper.

I didn't much fancy goin' into that there 'areem without a-telliu' Brown, as 'ad gone off for to see a canal as the French is a-makin' somewheres thro' the Red Sea, but as Mrs. Clumber said I might never 'ave another chance, I thought as I'd go, tho' I must say I 'ad my misgivin's, and left partickler word with Miss Pulbrook for to let the English Counsel know if I didn't turn up by bedtime; and I says to 'er, "If Brown should come back, p'r'aps it would be as well not to let 'im know till I returns."

We was to go in the arternoon, part of the way by a boat, leastways it was towards evenin'; and I must say as did give me the shudders a-bein' rowed by some ugly-lookin' chaps, tho' 'an'some

turbins over them werry same waters, where 'undreds 'ad been drownded as innocent as me, and glad I was when we was landed.

Of all the glary-lookin' fellers as them units was as guarded the place, I never did, and the way as they stared at me as follered close to Mrs. Clumber's 'eels, as was well beknowed to 'em all thro' a-bein' a sort of a go-between with them Turkeys' wives and their friends outside.

First we was took into a courtyard thro' a door as was werry much bolted, into a large 'all of a place, and up a staircase a-follerin' Mrs. Clumber as were a-talkin' to a portly lady, as 'ad a 'andkercher on 'er 'ead and trousers, as 'ad to look arter all the others, and a nice job too, but no doubt a good place, for she wore 'ansome jewels. Mrs. Clumber told me as she did used to be a favourite as outgrowed the Turkey's liking, and certingly she were uncommon stout, as made me feel more easier in my mind, for I'm sure if he was tired of 'er, he'd never take a fancy to me.

The rooms as I see was certingly werry grand, with lovely carpets as was welwet to the tread, and satin curtings a-'angin' over the doors and winders, and shandeleers and lookin'-glasses, and all manner, and what they calls diwans along the walls for to set upon, tho' there was chairs, as looked common, thro' bein' only plain cane bed room.

Mrs. Clumber she left me ever so long there alone, and a lot of young gals came and looked at me, and I'm sure there wasn't no reason to shet 'em up for their beauty, let alone some on 'em bein' black.

I set down on one of them cane chairs, as was that rickety it give way with me, so I dropped on to one of them diwans, as was too low to suit me, and there I set a-starin' round me, and a lot more of them gals come up as ugly as sin, and begun a-gigglin' and a lookin' at me for all the world, as tho' I'd been a wild-beast show.

If there is a thing as I can't bear, it's a-bein' stared at, partickler by 'eathen blacks and low-lived girls as don't know manners.

So, as it were a-gettin' dusk, I made believe for to shet my eyes and make 'em think as I'd dropped off; but they stopped ever so long, a-makin' remarks, and no doubt full of henvy at thinkin' of my bein' able for to walk out of that place as free as the hair any moment, as I chose.

Law, poor things, I couldn't but pity 'em, as was werry slovenly in their ways, a-'oldin' wax candles in their 'ands, as kep' droppin' all over them carpets; but in course couldn't tell 'em, thro' not a-bein' up to their talk, as is gibberish.

At last Mrs. Clumber she come back and waked

me up, for if I 'adn't been and fell asleep reg'lar, and if it wasn't pitch dark, and the lamps and candles alight, and Mrs. Clumber says, "Come along, we're a-goin' to 'ave some supper."

I says, "Supper! why, sure it's never so late as all that comes to?"

"Yes," she says, "it's past sunset."

"Well, then," I says, "I'd rather go 'ome."

She says, "You must 'ave supper; it's the princess's orders, as wants to see you 'erself arterwards."

I says, "What princess? Not of Wales, she ain't here, I 'opes."

She says, "No; the princess as lives 'ere."

Well, I knowed as there wasn't no disobeyin' of princesses, tho' only Turkey ones, when they're on their own dunghills, as the sayin' is; so in course I give it up, and went along with Mrs. Clumber to a room where a lot of them young ladies was a-settin' round on the floor a-eatin'.

Of all the sing'ler ways as ever I see, they beat 'em 'oller; for, bless you, they eats everythink with their fingers escept what they takes with a spoon, as they sucks clean, tho' a-makin' believe to wipe 'em on fine satting things as they've got throwed over their shoulders for napkings. Their nails is werry long, as is 'andy for 'em to tear away at their wittles with, thro' not bein' allowed no knives and

forks; some dishes is the nastiest things to look at as ever I see and couldn't fancy.

I got 'old of a bit of fowl of some sort, as were done to death, and then a bit of dried-up mutton-chop, on a skewer, and then some stuff done with rice; and as to the bread, it was reg'lar brine for saltness, made in cakes, and then there was lots of sweets and fruits, as was all sugar and preserves; but, as to their drinks, they're nothink but cool stuff as they calls sherbet, not like what they sells in London a penny a glass, as fizzes werry much and is coolin' in the dog-days, but always a lowerin' thing, I considers.

Them ladies seemed to me reg'lar to dewour every-think, and to be werry messy in their way of eatin', and wasted as much as they eat, as was p'r'aps for the sake of the slaves, as Mrs. Clumber told me, was fed off their leavin's.

At last we 'ad coffee, and was a-goin' to 'ave pipes, only Mrs. Clumber she told me as we must wait for to see the princess.

So, in a little while, we goes back to where she'd been in afore, and I follers 'er thro' that curtiug into a werry lovely room as were all painty-liko and gold, and there sat a lady as Mrs. Clumber made 'er obedience to, so in course I makes a low curtsey, the same as my dear mother taught me to make when a gal a-addressin' my betters.

I never see anythink more sing'ler than that lady's dress and ways of goin' on, as set with 'er legs tucked up under 'er.

She'd got on lovely things, and jewels on 'er neck, but I should say as the fleas was werry troublesome in that place, for she looked werry much bit about the neck.

She smiled werry pleasant at me, and I was offered coffee and a pipe as I only put my lips to, and then there was sweetmeats and fruits, and werry cool drink, but too sweet for me.

When we'd took our refreshments, that lady made a sign for me to go near 'er; and she made me set down, as was a trial to my knees, thro' the seat bein' that low, and I begun to thiuk 'owever I should get up ag'in.

That lady she looked at everythink as I'd got on, and kep' on a-jabberin' to some other ladies as laughed a good deal.

I couldn't 'elp a-wonderin' 'ow they could be that cheerful, shet up like that all their lives.

Well we was a-gettin' on all right, and the lady was a-showin' me 'er jewels when there was a confusion outside, and they come in and says a somethink to that princess, and Mrs. Clumber she says we must go, and up she jumps and makes a werry low reverence like to the lady, as arter a 'ard struggle to get up I did the same, and out we goes.

I says, "What's the matter?"

"Oh," she says, "nothink; only he's come, and we must be off."

I says, "Who's he?"

She says, "'Er 'usban', as is a sort of a king 'ere."

I says, "Law, you don't say so; then let's be off as quick as lightning, for I wouldn't see the waggerbone not for the 'ole world, as might be a-castin' 'is nasty sheep's-eyes at me."

"Oh," she says, "that's rubbish; but," she says, "do come on, or we shall be caught."

I tried for to keep up with 'er along that gallery, when if my sandal didn't come down, as I wore for ease and coolness about the feet.

I stops and puts my foot up for to tie it, as was more than I could manage for a minit or two, and then on I rushes, a-thinkin' I was a-follerin' Mrs. Clumber, when I comes full butt as the sayin' is, on a lot of them slaves and units.

As soon as they see me, they gives a yell, and pounced on me like wultures, and dragged me back'ards that wiolent, as it's a mercy I'd a rag of clothes left on my back.

I give a 'oller and shook 'em off, and jest then see thro' a curting, a-settin' in a room with a lot of ladies, a portly-lookin' party in a frock coat and a red cap, a-smokin' like a Christshun, on 'is 'ead.

I rushes into that room, and up to 'im for to protect me ag'in them outlandish wretches, and there was sich a screamin' and 'im a-lookin' thunderstorms, that I do believe as he spoke up for me friendly.

He didn't seem for to understand me, when I says to 'im "You'll escuse me, sir, but these 'ere wretches will tear me limb from limb, as am English, in the name of Brown, and willin' to be searched, for I ain't took nothink but a meal as 'ave not agreed with my constitution, tho' no doubt well meant."

He give a look like a thunderstorm a-bustin', and them units and slaves and all seemed reg'lar scarified, and then he give a nod, as meant as they should treat me gentle, for they led me away like lambs, for mildness.

They took me down a lot of stairs, and there I found Mrs. Clumber, and when I told 'er what 'ad 'appened, she says, "Then your 'ours is numbered, why, that were the prince 'isself, as is certain death to look at 'ere."

I says, "Don't talk foolishness, it's more than he dare to."

She says, "You'll see; why, it's death by the bastinladlelow for a Frank to be 'ere at all."

I says, "I ain't no Frank, tho' I 'ad a brother in that name, as died in teethin'"

She says, "Oh, why did I ever bring you?"

"Oh," I says, "why, indeed, a nest of wipers."

She says, "You would come."

Well, as she were talkin', up come one of them units, and begun a-goin' on wiolent, and Mrs. Clumber turns to me, and says, "You 'ave been and ruined yourself, and what's more, been my distraction, for we shall never see daylight no more; for," she says, "there's orders as we ain't to leave till more is knowed about you."

I says, "More knowed about me;" I says, "they can soon find out all about me. As the Prince of Wales, as I met on the dessert, as I'm sure would indemnify me in a instant, if spoke to proper."

Mrs. Clumber says, "There's orders as we ain't to leave."

I says, "Let 'em dare to keep me, that's all, as ain't none of them poor Turkey wretches to be trampled on, like the dirt under your feet;" I says, "I will go out of this place this instant."

She says, "You can't, for it's all locked up for the night, and the 'ead unit 'ave got the keys."

Then I says, "Unit or no unit, I'll 'ave 'em; where is he?"

She says, "Don't you be ridic'lous, for if you makes any noise 'ere, 'e'll 'ave you dragged down below, and give you a taste of the bastinladlelow on your bare soles, as is agony."

Well, thro' a-knowin' as my feet was that tender

a'ready, I didn't want to run no risks of 'avin' 'em scarified to death, so I says, "Werry well, I'll wait till mornin', and then I'll 'ave my revenge on 'em, and you too."

She says, "What for?"

"Why," I says, "a-darin' to 'tice me, a 'onest woman, into this 'ere den of wice and wickedness, as is a disgrace." I says, "Let 'em do as they like with creeturs as they've bought like cattle, but I ain't one for to be sold, nor bought neither." I says, "In course I can't get out thro' locks and bolts, but," I says, "them as keeps me shall rue the day, and if there's any insults, let 'em look out; for as sure as my name's Martha, the moment I gets out I'll take and I'll go to the Counsel, see if Christshuns is to be put upon by wild Turkeys like this."

I'd been a-talkin' rather loud, thro' a-feelin' that escited with Mrs. Clumber for bringin' me, till she got that aggrawated as she says, "I'm sure I didn't want to bring you in 'ere, you old guy, only you bothered so to come, and I never thought as you'd misbe'ave yourself."

I says, "I never bothered, it was you as offered to bring me; and as to misbe'avin' myself, prove your words."

"Yes," she says, "you 'ave, and nice trouble I've got myself into thro' it, as they all will 'ave

it 'ere as you're a man dressed up in woman's clothes."

"What a wile insinivation," I says, "as you can contradict."

"Well," she says, "as you're a fellow-creetur, I'll do my best to save you; but the Prince, the moment he sets eyes on you, said as you was a he creetur; and but for me you might 'ave been seized and drownded on the spot."

I says, "And you'd 'ave stood by and see me murdered in my innocency. Oh, you wile woman."

She says, "I've saved your life, and am sorry as I did, for tho' it's quite true as you looks more like a man than a woman, I stuck up for you; but, since you're that low abuse as you'd give way to, you may look out for yourself," and she turned away, and was a-goin' off.

I says, "You ain't never a-goin' to abandon me like that; I'll stick to you like wax," and I ketches 'old of 'er gownd.

She tried to shake me off, but let go I wouldn't, she give a wiolent pull, but I closed with 'er, and if we didn't both go down a-strugglin' with a flop, and roll over.

The row as we made a-fallin' brought a lot of them slaves and women all about, and presently up comes a 'ulkin' brute of a unit, as spoke werry loud and 'aughty, tho' a remarkable squeaky woice.

Mrs. Clumber she called on 'em to 'elp 'er up, and then she went on ag'in me, as were a-layin' 'elpless on my back, and if that unit didn't give a sign, and I was seized wiolent and dragged along and down stairs with a somethink across my mouth, as I shouldn't scream, and then I 'eard doors open, and I was pushed and kicked wiolent behind as sent me sprawlin' down some steps, and there I was 'arf stunned, ever so long a-layin' 'elpless.

When I come more to myself, and I sets up, there I was all alone in a dirty place, jest outside a door in a dead wall.

It wasn't no use me a-'ammerin' at that door, as only made 'em empt a ot of water over me, as was drenchin', and what to do I didn't know; and if it 'adn't been as I see some lights at a distance as proved to be the city n the end, I never should 'ave got thro it

I made my way to them lights as wasn't far down a beastly muddy lane, and was ever so long a-gettin' to the top on, with over my ankles in mud, and tumblin' over 'eaps of rubbish, terrified to death at them dogs as is a-prowlin' about a-searchin' for food, and frightened as them Turkeys would fire on me; and glad I was to crawl 'ome to where we was a-stoppin', as I know'd the way to when I got out of the lane, as wasn't so late arter all, but only jest

nine; and it was days afore I left my bed, thro' cold and bruises, as nearly killed me.

When I was about ag'in, if I didn't find out as that Mrs. Clumber 'ad been tellin' all manner of lies about me; a-sayin' as I'd been ketched in the Prince's own room, as 'ad made all 'is wives and columbines that jealous, as if it 'adn't been for 'er, they'd 'ave tore me piecemeal with thoir own nails.

"Why," I says, "what a owdacious falsity; why, 'ow can that be, when they took me for a man dressed up in petticoats."

I thought as Miss Pulbrook and the others would 'ave killed theirselves a-larfin' when I told 'em that, as made me that wild as I walked out of the room; but, bless you, Brown was wust of all, a-sayin' as he'd 'ave a diworce thro' me a-goin' into that 'areem, as is no doubt a wile den, tho' I must say fitted up wonderful fine; but give me a 'onest 'ome for a 'onest ooman, and none of your gilded wices for me, as is what I calls them Turkeys' 'areems, as I wouldn't go and live in one not for all the gold and silver, and jewels, and carpets, and curtings as ever was seen; and it's a downright disgrace as they're allowed.

I can't esactly make it out 'ow them Turkeys 'olds with them, for they're werry partickler about their religion, as is werry sing'ler, and like the Jews

about pork, and won't eat nothink all day long when it's the Ramadam, as they calls their fast, and says their prayers reg'lar, tho' goodness knows what they prays for, 'cos they believes as everythink is all fixed 'afore'and. What's the use of prayin' in partickler when you don't stick at murder, and is disgraceful bad 'usbands; and, as to fathers, why, in course, can't care about their children any more than Tom cats does about kittens, tho' I 'ave know'd our Tom as tender with 'em as if he'd been a Christshun; and I'm sure the way as the dog at Mrs. Cleaper's, the tripe-dresser's, took charge of 'er kittens it was a lesson to any one.

But, as I said afore, never will I believe as them poor creeturs can be 'appy shet up like that in them 'areems, and, for all Mrs. Clumber may say, I always will say is a disgrace to 'uman nater, even tho' they may be Turkeys as does it, as did used to be a 'angin' matter for a man to marry two wives, but now-a-days ain't thought much on, but, in my opinion, a downright disgrace, tho' only three months, and p'r'aps let out before your time with friends at Court, as the sayin' is.

Tho' I always will say as I do consider it were 'ard in the case of 'Melia 'Ill's mother, thro' 'Ill 'avin' decamped over fifteen year, and a good offer from a coal and tater shed as would 'ave been a 'ome for 'er old hage, and obliged to refuse 'im

thro' not beiu' certaiu as 'Ill were really diseased, as the lawyer said, tho' well known to have 'is 'ip jinte bad afore ever she married 'im, as I could swear to; but that's where it is as a lone woman gets put upon, and in course them Turkeys can do anythink, for it's well known as one mau may steal a 'orse where another dursn't look over the 'edge.

I never did know auythink like that land of Egyp' for tirin', as is a sandy sile, and I'm sure I don't know 'owever that Princess of Wales can bear up ag'in it, as don't look strong, with bein' dragged up pirrymids, and thro' rivers and mountings on drum-myderries, a-'untin' crockerdiles, as I do 'ope as she won't take one 'ome as toys for the children, as is 'ighly dangerous, and even a halligator ain't safe, nor yet the 'ippanbottemuppermost, as is that unwieldy size as might crush anyone, tho' ouly meanin' it in play.

I'm sure the turn as I got thro' a-thinkin' as a crockerdile were a-pursuin' me close by the water side, where I was a-settin' that lovely evenin' arter we'd been a-spendin' the day a-seein' that spinx and pirrymids, I never shall forget.

I were that tired as put one leg afore the other, as the sayin' is, I couldn't; and when we got back to the boat as was to meet us, tho' uot the same place as we'd come by, I was dead beat.

So, as we was full early, the others they wanted me for to wander about the bank a bit.

"No," I says, "let me have a-settin' anywheres, and I'll rest and enjoy the a-sun-settin' too," as is a fine sight thro' 'im a-doin' it more sudden than in England.

Says a gentleman, as I 'adn't 'ardly noticed all day, though a friend of them officers, he says, "Pray, take care of the crockerdiles."

I says, "The crockerdiles may take care of theirselves, as is big and ugly enough for to do it, I'm sure." So, I says, "When you've been and ketched any, don't espect me to look arter them."

"Oh," says that gentleman, "I means take care as one don't pop out of the river sudden, and give a snap at you."

"Law," I says, "he never wouldn't think of such a thing."

"Oh," he says, "he could bite you in arf in a instant, thro' 'avin' a double row of teeth for the purpose."

Well, when I come to think as he could bite through a 'ippanbottemuppermost, why, in course, I shouldn't be a mouthful for 'im.

So I says to that gentleman, "Couldn't I frighten 'im away?"

"No," he says, "but you may baffle 'im easy."

I says, "'Ow?"

"Why," he says, "you keep a-runnin' round in circles, and he'll never ketch you, for he can't turn."

"Law," I says, "'ow ill-convenient for 'im, to be sure." I says, "Do you mean to say as, when he's once started, he 'ave always to keep on straight before 'im to the end of the world?"

"Not esactly," says he, "'cos he makes for the water as he can turn in."

"Yes," I says, "but when he's once come out of the water, 'owever does he get back ag'in?"

"Oh," says the gentleman, "he backs."

"Oh," I says, "jest like a steamer, I suppose; but," I says, "I'm thankful as I ain't made so as to be obliged to back, for I never can go more than three steps back'ards without a-comin' down, as shakes the constitution a good deal."

Well, that young gentleman he smiled and walks away a-smokin', and I set there a-noddin', when, all of a sudden, I 'eard a splash and see a black 'ead a-swimmin' in the water towards me.

I says, to myself, it's a crockerdile, no doubt, as 'ave sniffed me for its prey.

So, up I jumps, and takes to my 'eels, and a-remembcrin' what the gentleman 'ad said about the beast not bein' able for to turn, I didn't run

straight for'ard, but took a reg'lar turn, and runs round and round like a circular, but 'eard the reptile a-comin up with me fast.

I shet my eyes, not a-likin' to look my own distraction in the face, and jest then I 'eard a snuffin'-like close behind me, and thro' not a-seein' where I was a-goin' to, ketched my foot in a loose stone or somethink, and over I went; and, tho' I fell soft, as was a mercy, I couldn't get up were it ever so, and in another hinstant the creetur's paws was on me.

I give myself up for lost, but jest opened a eye, and if it wasn't a big black dog a-standin' over me, as belonged to the steamer, and know'd me quite well, and 'ad no doubt drove tho crockerdile away, and 'ad come to me friendly-like.

I was quite glad to see 'im, tho' he did shake 'isself all over me, for he seemed quite like seein' a fellow-creetur ag'in.

I 'adn't run werry far, so all the 'arm was my bein' a little saudy, and some of the others 'ad come back, so they 'elped me up, and we was werry soon a-goin' 'ome by moonlight.

Miss Pulbrook she made me that wild a-sayin' as I'd took that dog for a crockerdile as there wasn't no fears of them a-molestin' anyone not thereabouts where we was, as was that shy in their 'abits as they kep' under water and couldn't be got to

show theirselves not ever 'igher up the river to oblige the Prince of Wales, as were anxious to shoot at one for curiosity's sake, as in course would 'ave been a 'oner for a crockerdile, and no risk neither, thro' them 'avin' a coat as is bullet-proof, and can't be killed, for all the world like the turtle-shell as they makes the combs on, as is 'ard tho' brittle, for I've broke more than one myself in my own back-'air when quite a gal, as was only mock turtle, but quite as strong as the real, and nothink like so espeusive —jest the same as the soup, as is nothink but calves' 'ead werry often, tho' I've know'd cooks as put in the trimmin's of the roal for to give the flaviour as some is partial to.

I must say as I were all of a fidget to get away from Egyp', for the weather was a-gettin' that warm as made me think as some of them plagues would be a-settin' in, for the flies 'ad begun to be awful troublesome a'ready, and I was a-feelin' dreadful bilious thro' a-givin' in to some werry nice-lookin' pastry, as were made with 'oney, and I never shall forget 'ow awful bad it made me, tho' them Turkeys will devour it by the cart-load; but then, you see, they are such ones to fast on the Ramadam, and won't touch bit nor drop till sunset, not even a pipe of 'baccy, as no one in their senses can't call wittles, but in course it's right if it's their ways.

I must say as their places of woship ain't nothink partickler inside, as I pretty nigh got into a nice row a-goin' to see one on 'em, as is a fine buildin', with a 'igh flight of steps up to.

There was one of them pilgrimins a-goin' to start, or a-comin' back, or somethink as were a reg'lar percession, as I thought I should like to 'ave a good look at.

So I walks up them steps, and gets a seat ag'in a column as give me a fine view, and I was settin' like a lamb, as the sayin' is, for quietness, when, all of a sudden, a rum-lookin' chap comes at me with a rush, and shoves me off my seat.

I turns round, and makes a blow at 'im with my umbreller, as missed 'im, but 'it one as were a-standin' by, as didn't take no notice.

So I gets up, and was a-goin' back to my seat, for the percession was a-comin' up, and I could see 'em a-windin' along ever so far, with their camels, and drummyderries, and donkeys, and all manner, when I 'eard a shriek behind me, and a feller rushes at me and give me a wiolent shove, as sent me a-flyin' down them steps like a whirlwind, and swep' every one before me like a torrant, as the sayin' is.

I must 'ave been killed but for there bein' such a lot of people on them steps for to check my fall; but, bless you, that willin as 'ad shoved me down

kep' a-screamin', and if two of 'em didn't seize 'old on me and drag me down the rest of them steps that wiolent as my sandals give way and my shoes come off, and I was cuffed and kicked frightful.

Jest then a gentleman come up with a grey beard and a loud woice, as made the willins let go on me, and spoke out at 'em, and then he turns and says to me, in Hinglish, as he proved to be 'isself, "My good soul, whatever took you up there?"

I says, "My legs, in course," for was that put out as I couldn't 'elp a-answerin' 'im short.

He says, "Don't you know as that's a holy place as you was a-defilin'?"

I says, "Who dares to say sich a thing?"

"Well," he says, "that's what the people consider you to 'ave done."

"Then," I says, "they considers wrong. I was only a-settin' there a-lookin' on."

He says, "But your presence is a defilement."

"Well," I says, "it's no use a-talkin' to Turkey savages, but I defies 'em to say as I were not a-actin' like a lady, as is my 'abits, and wouldn't 'ave gone near the place of woship not to insult nobody."

"Well," he says, "I'm glad as you've come out as well as you 'ave."

I says, "I don't know what you calls a-comin' out well, with one of my shoes clean gone, and my

elber, as is, I think, put out, to say nothink of bein' mauled about with their beastly 'ands, and the stick of my umbreller snapped clean in arf."

He asked me where I lived, and when I told 'im if he didn't take me 'ome in 'is own carriage, as were a party as 'ad lived for years among 'em, and know'd their ways, and at partin' he give me a friendly warnin' not for to intrude on their religion, as they're werry partickler about.

Not but what I'd been in one of their mosks, as they calls their churches, as isn't a bit like a church, and no bells, but a party goes up to the top of a 'igh tower, and 'owls out, as is a-callin' them to prayers, as is great waste of breath, I should say, and a bell would do it a deal better.

But you see them Turkeys can't even a-bear a 'and-bell—I've 'eard say as they thinks, in their hignorance, will bring up Old 'Arry, as I'm sure would 'ave enough to do if he were to answer all the bells as is rung in this world, for I'm sure I know'd one 'ouse alone where the door-bell was a-ringin' perpetual of a Saturday mornin', let alone the bedrooms and settin'-rooms, as kep' the servants on the run from mornin' till night, as I daresay often wished as Old Nick 'ad the answerin' on 'em, partickler old Lady Wittles, as never left 'er room thro' a-losin' the use of her limbs, and temper too, as would shy anythink as fust come to 'and at their

'eads if the bell weren't answered instant without considerin' as legs is legs and stairs is stairs, let alone takin' your breath away, and a luneh-tray a 'eavy thing to earry.

The time as I went iuto that mosk was on the quiet, tho' we was four in party, for I didn't want to disturb the congregation a-goin' in all at onee durin' service, as I considers is bad manners, so I got to the door all alone, like a mouse, as there was parties about, and was a-goin' in, when some on 'em ketched 'old on me and set me down sudden, and begun for to take off my shoes, a-ketchin' up my leg that wiolent as nearly sent me baek'ards. I 'ollers for 'elp, as brought some of the others up.

I says, "For mussy sake do make these waggerbones let me go," for I thought as they was a-goin' to give me the bastinladlelow; but all as they wanted was for me to put on a pair of slippers as wouldn't defile the floor.

I'm sure my shoes was a deal cleauer than them slippers, but it's all a trick, only to get money out on you, the same as they did used to make you pay tuppenee at the door of St. Paul's aforo they'd let you go in, as is werry like a mosk for bare walls, only the Turkeys 'aven't got no orgin.

I didn't hear none of their prayers, but see as they fell down on their knees, with their 'eads on the floor, without a-takin' off their turbens a-prayin'

as is certingly werry unlike what they does in St. Paul's, tho' I 'ave seen parties a-wearin' their 'ats in that church; but then they was only a-walkin' about a-chattin' and larfin', not a-pretendin' to pray, as of course wasn't their business, but a-bein' done by parties in white surplices, and boys as sung delightful up in one corner, and the orgin a-playin' beautiful.

It's my opinion as the St. Paul's is werry like the Jews, for the Jews wears their 'ats in church, jest the same as some does in St. Paul's, and will talk werry pleasant to you all the while as service is a-goin' on; leastways so Brown told me, as went to the sinagog one Saturday, and they was werry perlite and pleasant to 'im, and didn't seem to think 'im no intrusion, and, as to a defilement, not the least in the world.

As to them Turkeys, bless you, I were told that if, a few years back, I'd dared to 'ave even looked into a mosk, they'd 'ave tore me limb from limb, as isn't a-be'avin' like Christshuns to a lone ooman and stranger, I should say.

I might as well 'ave been a lone ooman, for Brown never pitied me, and I never see a man as were more destituter of nat'ral cur'osity as didn't care about seein' nothink but them steam-engins; but every one to their tastes, I says, and give me a good sight to see, and I'll go and see it.

I must say, tho' as Egyp' 'ave shook me a good deal, for I never was so pulled and 'awled about in my life afore, and I do 'ope as they didn't pull that 'ere Princess of Wales up them pirrymids as wiolent as they did me, for I'm sure she's a slight-made figger, and if I 'adn't been a good substance I must 'ave give way with their draggin's and pushin's.

Some parties where we was a-stoppin' was a-talkin' at breakfast one day about a 'ole party as 'ad come out from England for to foller the Prince of Wales about, and one gentleman said as it was a impertinent intrusion.

I says, "Fiddle-de-dee. Impertinent, indeed! a cat may look at a king, as the sayin' is, and I'm sure 'is Rial 'Ighness would be glad for to fall in with some good honest Hinglish faces arter seein' nothink but these 'ere Turkey blackamoors all abont."

"Oh," says the gentleman, "wulgar people all thinks alike."

I says, "P'r'aps they do; and I knows as they all acts alike, as you're a proof on, a-answerin' a lady like that."

He only tossed 'is 'ead, as was nothink but a retired drysalter 'isself, as 'ad been knighted thro' bein' sherriff.

He says, "All I means to say is as the Prince, bein' *incognito*, don't want no intruders."

"Then," I says, "why don't he tell them Turkeys so, as is a-pesterin' 'im and 'is good lady with balls and *fêtes* as he don't want; but," I says, "whatever 'arm can it do 'im for English parties as knows manners to go and look at the places where he's been to, as wouldn't think of intrudin' on 'im noways?"

"No," says the gentleman, "they won't 'ave the chance, for the 'thorities 'll save 'im from annoyance."

"Well," I says, "the 'thorities may save theirselves the trouble, for I'm sure nobody wants to be no annoyance to the Prince, as I don't believe would be annoyed to see 'is ma's subjects, for I'm sure they has to pay the money, so if they likes to come to Egyp' that's their business, as ain't under no obligations to nobody for it, and is nicely robbed by them Turkeys, with their everlastin' black sheep."

Not but what I must say they've be'aved noble to the Prince of Wales, with sich fine doin's as never were seen, and like fairy tales a-goin' on; but I should say it must be werry unpleasant for the Princess, to go to them pallises, thro' there bein' no lady for to receive 'er, for in course she wouldn't go for to countenance their wicked doin's, in that Parshar 'avin' dozens of wives, as never shows at the grand balls, or nowheres, as is, in course,

ashamed to show their faces to a 'onest woman, as would blush to look at 'em.

I certingly were awful put out with a party, as did used to go about with us, as were a Greek, with a name like Rokamadurdy, or somethink like that, as spoke English beautiful, and did used to say as Turkey wasn't no wuss than English.

I says, "'Ow dare you to say sich a wile falsity ag'in the English, as I'm sure you never 'eard on a-goin' on like that."

"Well," he says, "I'm sure as there was a English woman, as called 'erself a lady, too, as went on as no Turkish woman would 'ave dared to, and as to English men, why,' he said, "as there was one feller as dressed 'isself up, and passed 'isself off for a Turkey, thro' a-goin' to Mucker with 'em, and 'ad arf-a-dozen wives, as he took over to England along with 'im."

"Well," I says, "I 'ope 'is good lady, if he 'ad one, scratched 'is eyes out when he got there, and sent them 'ussies to the right about."

"No," says he, "she didn't mind it."

"Well," I says, "all I got to say, if Brown was to try sich a game on me, I know werry well what I'd do. I'd send them unfortinate creeturs to the workuss, and 'ave 'im took up for arf-a-dozen bigamies at ouce, as would be transportation for 'im, at the werry least, a willin."

They did used to tell mo wonderful stories 'ow them Turkeys went on, and nice gamcs there must be sometimes a-goin' on in them 'areems.

Leastways, so Miss Pulbrook told me, as said as nobody wasn't never safe, for if one of them Turkeys took a fancy to any one, he'd get 'old on 'er, by 'cok or by crook, as the sayin' is, as made me werry partickler a-goin' about, for to keep my wail, as were a blue one, elose over my face, 'cos of the dust, and not a-ehoosin' to be stared out of eountenance by them 'eathen waggerbones, as don't respect hage nor sect, as the sayin' is.

It got so uneommon warm, tho' only quite early in March, as I didn't care to go out till towards evenin', no more didn't Miss Pulbrook, so we went out for a stroll together often, and got down to the water's hedge.

Well, one evenin', jest as it were a-gettin' dusk, and we see a man a-settin' in a boat, as seemed a-waitin' for some one.

So I says to Miss Pulbrook, "It's my opinion as he ain't arter no good."

She says, "It ain't no business of ours, so we'd better turn the other way."

I says, "With all my 'art;" and jest then, a man eome along with a cart, and drives down to where that boat were a-stoppin'.

The man in the boat jumps out, and goes to

meet 'im, and if they didn't lift a somethink in a sack out of the cart atweeu 'em as were a-kickin'

I says, "Depend on it that's some poor creetur as they're a-goin' to drown, the wretches."

"Law," says Miss Pulbrook, "do you think so; let's give a alarm."

I says, "What's the use, we can't do nothink; but," I says, "if we was to go back, p'r'aps we might frighten 'em."

"Yes," says she, "no doubt we should, thro' 'avin' of bad consciences."

So back we goes, and come upon them two fellers jest as they was a-carryin' a second sack out of the cart.

I see as they was startled at the sight on us, so I says, "Oh! you bad uns," and a-growlin' at 'em like.

The noise as I made give 'em sich a start as made 'em let the sack drop, and I 'eard a reg'lar groan like come out on it.

I says, "Poor thing, 'ow awful;" and I give a loud sort of a growl at them fellers, as jumped into the boat and pushed off, a-leavin' the sack, cart and all, behind 'em.

I says to Miss Pulbrook, "Let's try and get the poor creetur out."

She were quite willin', and we was a-tryin' to get the sack undone, and couldn't manage it.

Jest then a little Arrib boy come along, so I beckons to 'im, and 'olds up a bit of money, and pints to the sack for 'im to untie it, as he did when he'd took the money; but he 'adn't no sooner undone it than he jumped back as if he'd been shot, and took and spit at me, and throwed stones at me, a-runnin' away and cussin' like wild all the way.

I goes to pull the sack open, when up come two men as 'ad sticks in their 'ands, and one on 'em ketched 'old of me.

I says to Miss Pulbrook, "No doubt this is 'er 'usband, as is wild with us for a-interferin', as shan't get no thanks for our pains."

Them men begun a-jabberin' as were quite beyond my comprehensions, and pints to the sack and the cart, as made me only shake my head at 'em and say, for shame; but when I come to look ag'in I see they was the perlice, so I says to Miss Pulbrook, "It's all right, as will, no doubt, thank us for stoppin' murder bein' done."

So I pints to the sack the perlice took 'old on, and out jumps a big pig, as rushed out that wiolent as to knock me down flat on my back, and Miss Pulbrook, she nearly died a-larfin', and made them understand as we was strangers; but they wasn't satisfied till they come 'ome with us, and then we was able to make it all out, as was no murder, but only a robbery, as them waggerbones 'ad been and

done, as was Grceks, 'ad been and stole two pigs from some French parties in the sausage line, as come arter 'em, and wouldn't never 'ave caught 'em but for us, tho' that pig misbe'aved 'isself shameful when he got out, a-runnin' slap along a street full of Turks as can't a-bear the sight on 'em, and wouldu't touch 'im for the world, and at last, bolted into a place where a lot of Turkeys was at supper, and upset the lot with 'is wagaries.

So they all told me for to keep quiet for a day or two; for if them Turkeys found out as it was me as set that pig at 'em, it might bring on words as would p'r'aps end in blows.

There was a werry nice young gentleman a-stoppin' in the 'ouse with us as were a Italian, and looked that melancholy, with werry large eyes, and greasy 'air down 'is back, as they said was thro' bein' a poet. He didn't talk English werry well, but Miss Pulbrook she told me as he were desperate in love with a young lady as were shet up in one of them 'areems.

I says, "'Owever could he 'ave see 'er?"

"Oh," she says, "she were carried off, in spite of 'er screeches, from the church door, jest as they was a-goin' to be married."

I says, "Law, 'ow hawful," as shows as they did ought to 'ave a beadle always on the look out to keep the crowds back, the same as they always 'ad

at Spitalfield's Church, in a cock 'at, where Miss Mostin was married to Mrs. Polling's nephew, as were only a journeyman bookbinder as was werry ridic'lous in 'er to wear clear musling in the month of February, and goin' to the espense of a fly, as were not necessary ; and the young woman as he'd promised to marry come to the church door along with 'er friends, as was employed at a large brewery, all come for to pitch into 'im, and a nice row there would 'ave been but for the perlice, as interfered, and locked 'em all up for the night.

"Well," says Miss Pulbrook, "that may be all werry easy among Christshuns; but there wasn't no beadle nor perlice neither."

"Ah," I says, "that's 'ow it is as they nobbled 'er. But," I says, "whatever is the young man a-goin' to do?"

"Why," she says, "get 'er out, in course."

I says, "He never can."

She says, "Oh, yes, he will: love will find out the way, and it's so interestin', for he's a-goin' to get into that 'areem, disguised as a water-carrier."

I says, "They'll water-carrier him; as he'll be butchered by drowniu' for a dead certainty; so let 'im look out."

Says Miss Pulbrook, "I've promised to 'elp 'im, and I know as you'll assist, won't you?"

I says, "Not by a-goin' into one of them

'areems dressed up like a water-carrier, as I wouldn't do not for my own brother."

She says, "No, in course not; but what he wants is some one to go in a boat and wait for 'im till he brings the young lady out, as is that partickler as she wouldn't come away with 'im alone was it ever so."

"Well," I says, "and right she is, and I likes 'er for it."

She says, "Then you'll come along with me, as 'ave promised to 'elp the poor feller as is reg'lar broken 'arted?"

"Well," I says, "it's a duty, in course, to 'elp any one as is in distress; but," I says, "I don't arf like the job."

She says, "I can go alone."

I says, "No, that you shall not; for, tho' no longer young, you are a fieldmale all the same, and I won't desert you."

She give a toss of 'er 'ead, and said as eight-and-twenty was not old.

"No," I says, "but that's been your hage many a year ago."

She didn't say no more, but it was agreed as we was to go together, and the next mornin' she come into my room and asks me to lend 'er some money.

Well, I didn't liko to refuse, as it were only

four pounds as she wanted, as comes to a good deal more in francs; so I give it 'er, and then, arter a little while, she come back and said, "Will you be ready to-night about seven?"

I says, "It looks werry lowery, and will turn to rain afore the night is out, I do believe."

She says, "That will be all the better for them young lovers."

I didn't like to be stony-'arted, so agreed as I'd go.

It turned out a mizzlin' sort of a evenin', when me and Miss Pulbrook went out on the quiet, and gettin' a carriage, with that young Italian, drove to where we got into a boat, and was rowed ever so far out in the rain, as were pourin', and then that Italian spoke to the two men as was a-rowin' the boat, and they put 'im ashore.

He whispered a somethink to Miss Pulbrook as he got out, and I see 'er give 'im somethink, but I didn't take no notice, as isn't manners, and we was pushed off a little way from land, and there we set awaitin' and awaitin'.

I says, "Why ever don't we land?"

She says, "Oh, that would spile all; we're to wait 'ere till he gives the signal."

"Well," I says, "I only wish as this rain would leave off, as is a-peltin';" and so it were, and on and on we set a-waitin'

I says, at last, to Miss Pulbrook, "Depend on it he's been ketched and done for."

She says, "Oh, dear, no; we should 'ave 'eard the firin', for he'll sell 'is life dear with 'is re-wolwer."

I says, "P'r'aps they'll kill 'im, and then fire on us."

She says, "No fear, but don't talk so loud."

Well, we waited and waited, but no sign nor sound, till at last them boatmen begun a-rowin' back, as made me feel thankful, but Miss Pulbrook she kep' a-tellin' on 'em to stop; but, law bless you, they took no notice of 'er, but brought the boat to shore, and made signs to us to get out.

Miss Pulbrook she begun a-sayin' all manner of gibberish as they didn't understand a syllabub on, I'm sure; and, as she wouldn't get out of the boat, nor yet let me, tho' I was reg'lar soaked thro' and thro', them men went and fetched a interpreter, as told us as them men 'ad been 'ired to keep us three 'ours in that boat, and 'ad brought us back ag'in when the time was up.

They didn't know nothing of the young Italian, and that interpreter said as we must go 'ome, and so we did—Miss Pulbrook a-makin' a nice row and sayin' I was as bad as a Turkey, if not wuss, for want of 'art and feelin'.

I didn't mind 'er talk, but got 'ome and to bed

as quiek as I eould, with a reg'lar ehill, and do believe as it was only a 'ot drink as I took as kep' off a serious illness.

I 'ad my misgivin's about that Italian, as proved a reg'lar swindler, and never come back no more, thro' 'avin' run in debt with everybody, and left two empty trunks behind 'im full of sand and stones.

Miss Pulbrook she paid me back the money as I'd lent 'er, and never till we was partin' did she tell me the money as that impostor 'ad swindled 'er out on, as were a reg'lar thief, and no better, and no Italian neither, but only a raseal of a Greek as 'ad been a-robbin' every one right and left, and 'ad got werry near twenty pounds out of Miss Pulbrook, and some money out of that missionary, a-pretendin' to be conwerted from 'is herrors of 'is ways, as I'm sure he ain't a-goin' to change so long as they pays as well as Miss Pulbrook and the missionary.

As to 'im 'avin' any one in the 'areem, in course it were all my eye, as the sayin' is, but Miss Pulbrook she's a reg'lar old hass, full of 'er faneies, and that romantic, a-thinkin' as all the world did ought to be like novel readin', as is a thing I don't 'old with, and always ends bad, the same as "Jack Sheppard," as they do say 'ave made lots of boys turn out thieves, not as I believes much in that, for it must be a bad boy as takes up with a bad

examples; and why all the boys now-a-days don't come to be 'anged I can't think, for I'm sure they're neglected shameful, and let loose about the streets like wild cats, and will 'ave to be destroyed some day by the perlice, jest as the stray dogs was last year.

I was not sorry to 'ear Brown say we was a-goin' back 'ome arter he'd been returned a few days from a-seein' 'em open that canal, as some do say the French is a-makin' their way to Ingy thro', and will turn us out.

So, I says, "Well, Brown, any'ow we've 'ad a pretty good turn out of it, for I've 'eard my dear mother say, as she remembered 'eariu' tell of lots of parties, as was almost beggars thro' bein' Scotch, and ruined in their own country as were conquered by the Anoweryians many years ago, as drove 'em out, as went out to Ingy with 'ardly a rag to their backs, as the sayin' is, as come 'ome worth millions, tho' they do say as they was ill-gotten gains, as was stole from them natives as they pisoned with opium, partickler the Chinese."

Brown says, "It ain't no use a-talkin' about it, for whatever is this world all over, but wrongs and robberies everywhere; them as is rich and strong can do jest what they pleases, and everybody else a-bowin' and a-scrapin' to 'em; it's the poor man as is the audacious willin, and gets punished severe for

doin' wrong, 'cos, of course, if a gentleman does anythink ag'in the law, why, if he's sent to prison they werry soon lets 'im out, 'cos it don't suit 'is 'ealth, or 'is good lady is a-frettin'."

I says, "Brown, you're a reg'lar jemmy crat, as the French calls it, I do believe."

"No," he says, "I ain't; I wants every man to 'ave 'is rights, but then he did ought to respect 'is neighbours'."

"Ah," I says, "you may talk a long while afore you gets parties to act on the square like that, as would make this world werry different to what it is; but," I says, "do let's get 'ome, that's a dear, for I'm sick and tired of this place, and can't 'elp a-thinkin' as I may come to a bad end, as will be the bottom of a sack."

He says, "Don't be a-feared, old ooman, I won't sarve you like that."

I says, "I don't suppose as you will, Brown; but," I says, "I've 'ad awful dreams lately, and 'ave 'eard sich tales as is enough to cuddle any one's blood up in 'eaps;" for Miss Pulbrook was a-tellin' me about the way as the grand unit, in one of them scraglios, as they calls 'em, as is the same as what that two-faced 'ussy, Mrs. Clumber, says, is called 'areems, tho' I've always 'eard 'em spoke about as 'areems, and I'm sure they're reg'lar 'arum-scarum places.

Well, but this 'ere grand unit 'ad to look arter two of that feller's favourite wives—liked one and 'ated the other; and if he didn't go about and say as she was a-tryin' to run away with a black sojer, as be'aved like a reg'lar blackguard to 'er, a-turnin' king's evidence ag'in 'er, and if she wasn't tortured to death by that other wife, as the grand unit give 'er over to, took and scraped 'er to death, along with a lot of 'er slaves, with their back 'air-combs, as 'er screeches was 'eard for miles; and there's lots more is made away with by the sackful, and no more thought on it than if they was drowudin' blind kittens with a mop and a pail.

I've 'eard say as there ain't nothink but pryin' and spyin' all about them seraglios, and that's why I don't feel heasy in my mind.

Well, Brown, he was a-settin' doin' 'is pipe in our room, and he listens attentive, as is 'is 'abits, and then he says, "Well, Martha, if there's any one a-livin' as can get you alive into a sack, I'd forgive 'im."

I never was so took aback in my life, and I says, "Mr. Brown, if you've been and 'ticed me 'ere among 'eathens to make away with me, let me know the wust at once; and if you wishes to stop 'ere and live cross-legged like a bandy Parshar, with wives and columbines, as p'r'aps is your wishes, only say the word and I'll go back, as can go live with

'Liza, thro' 'avin' enough to pay my board and washin', and I'm sure she'd throw the lodgin' in. I shouldu't trouble 'er long, for when the 'art's busted, as mine would be, why, life can't 'aug out much longer; but," I says, "I will say, if any one 'ad told me as you could 'ave been so soon corrupted by livin' among furriners, I'd 'ave denied it on oath, as only proves as my words is true about all on 'em bein' a wile deecitful race, partickler Turkey ones;" and then I were that upset as I bust out a-cryiu'.

Brown says, "Come, old gal, don't be a fool."

I says, "I may be a fool, Brown, and knows as I'm old, as is only the course of nater, as never did run for ever, as the sayin' is, and as, no doubt, you've see'd some of these 'ere blear-eyed beauties as 'ave took your fancy, and made you get tired of your old wife like a 'eathen; but never mind, it'll come 'ome to you afore you die," and I sobbed as if my 'art would break.

So Brown says, "I always thought as I'd got a wife as 'ad 'er 'ead put on 'er shoulders the right way, tho' give to gabblin'; but if you're in earnest, Martha, I'm dowuright ashamed on you, as are a-talkin' like a born idiot."

I knowed by 'is way as Brown were in earuest, so I says, "Of course, if I'd thought for a moment, I must 'ave knowed it was all rubbish; but," I says, "Brown, I'm that low and nervous that I ain't

quite myself, and do believe as it's the 'eat as is lowerin' me, and thro' the wittles not a-suitin' me, and I shall be all right when we gets 'ome."

"Well," he says, "you may soon be there, for we can leave next week, and are a-goin' 'ome by way of Tryeast, as is in the Gulf of Wenus."

"Well," I says, "I don't care whether you tries east or tries west, only, for goodness' sake, let's get 'ome, for," I says, "the wermin is a-gettin' downright outrageous, as was always one of the plagues of Egyp', as is well-beknown."

I'm sure not no Jew, not even Moses 'isself, was more anxious to get away from Egyp' than me; so I set to work a-packin' up with a light 'art, for I 'ad my misgivin's as Brown might get too fond of the 'Gypshun ways, as is that partial to 'is pipe, as is a thing as 'ave 'ticed many a man from 'is 'ome afore now.

Not as ever I've been one to set my face ag'in 'is smokin' at 'ome, for I always 'olds it to be a wife's duty for to make 'ome that pleasant as a 'usband shouldn't never feel 'isself so comfortable nowheres else, and then if he'll go wrong, why in course he must.

Miss Pulbrook she was werry much put out when she 'eard we was not a-goin' to Constantinople and Jerusalem, and all manner. "But," I says, "no, not this time, tho' I should like to see them places."

She were a-settin' a-talkin' to me while I was a-packin' up, as I did by degrees, as it's a thing as is that fatiguin', tho' I did 'ave the porkmangle on two chairs, as give me trouble at fust, for jest as I'd packed it full if some'ow them chairs didn't slip apart, and down goes the porkmangle and everythink rolled out, with two bottles broke.

Well, Miss Pulbrook, she were a-tellin' me a tale as proves as them Turkey women is every bit as bad as their 'usbands, when they gets the chance.

She knowed as it were all true thro' 'avin' been told it by a 'old lady as was always a-goin' in and out them 'areems, and give me quite a turn for to 'ear it.

Itwas about one of them wives as got jealous of 'er 'usband, thro' a-ketchin' of 'im out in bein' fond of one of 'er slaves, as is ag'in their laws, tho' she don't mind 'em a-'elpin 'er in a-washin' and a-dressin' of 'im, for all the world like a baby growed up.

Well, she 'ad 'er suspicions, and if she didn't take and 'ave that poor slave's 'ead cut off and put on a dish with a cover over it, for supper with 'er 'usband, and when that cover were took off, in course he were awful took aback, and calls for a drop of somethink to drink; and if that wife didn't take and give 'im pison with her own 'and as he espired in drinkin' off at a draught.

"Well," I says to Miss Pulbrook, "it did ought to be a warnin' to any one not to live that shameful way, as 'ave caused a many to come to a bad end, like Anna Brown, as that Greenacre amputated into bits, as the sayin' is, down Camberwell way, and 'ow many more 'ave come to utter distraction thro' a wicious life, and that jealousy as is only 'uman natur arter all, tho' some is cruel-'arted Blue Beards, and takes a pleasure in ill-usin' their wives all over the world, and when a ooman knows as she's neglected, why, in course, she takes it to 'art, and will seek comfort in the gin-bottle, as 'ave broke up many a 'ome, but in my opinion good 'usban's makes good wives, and wicey warsy, as the sayin' is; and depend on it as a man can make what he likes of a ooman as loves 'im, but in course, if he don't love 'er, she'll soon find it out, and not care for 'im nor yet the children neither.

For there was Mrs. Samson, as good a wife as ever stepped, as died ravin' mad in Stepney Work'us, thro' a-findin' 'im out a waggerbone, with a young ooman as he'd promised to marry, and their banns asked twice in Old Lambeth Church; and took to drink, and tried for to kill 'im and herself too, and carried to the work'us in the dead of the night, on a stretcher, pretty nigh bleedin' to death by the way, and only lived three

weeks, and never even knowed 'er own mother, as is only what any one might espect, for 'owever can a woman care about a 'usband as isn't 'er own 'usband, but only got a share in 'im, as one might say, and liable for to be neglected for another under 'er werry nose, as she's locked up with for life and can't get away from, as must lead to words, as is always unpleasant things in families."

It's all werry fine to talk about the Prince of Wales a-bein' *incogniter*, and not a-noticin' their goin's on; but what I wants to know is, whatever would they do with 'im if he was to come in 'is right senses, as the sayin' is, and tell 'em as they didn't ought to go on so.

Of all the goin's on as there was at that Caro when 'im and the Princess come back from a-goin' up the Nile, I never did, as was races and balls, and theaytres, all over the place, but that 'eat as I couldn't a-bear it, not even with a thin alpacker aud no mantle, and 'ad got such a sickener of them Turkeys in crowds, a-pushin' and a-drivin' at you, that I didn't want to see nothink, and I says, "No, I thank you, Brown; you go and see them doin's, and let me stop at 'ome," tho' I did go for to see the 'luminations at the new pallis as is built on the Nile, where that ere Parshar give a dinuer to the Prince and Princess as 'ave cost 'im a pretty penny, they do say thirty thousand pounds.

I'm sure I was werry nigh frightened out of my wits in the middle of the night by the cannon as was fired off at sunrise, as woke me up with sich a start, and I says to Brown, "For goodness' sake wake up, for depend on it they're a-goin' to massacree that Prince and Princess."

He says "Rubbish; why it's their feast."

"Well, then," I says, "whyever didn't they say so, and not go a-firin' off a gun like that, as 'ave nearly shook the windows out the same as it did my Aunt Mattley's, as lived at Battersea-rise, thro' the 'Ounslow powder mills a-blowin' up, as the fragments on were picked up on Shooter's-'ill and would 'ave turned the bed of the river if it 'ad been Purfleet, as I once were a-stoppin' close to, and never went to bed not easy in my mind for fear as a spark might send us all a-flyin' thro' eternity."

He say, "Oh, bother; let me get a little sleep."

I says, "Oh, pray sleep, as it's my opinion you'd give in, too, if them Turkeys was to bust in and carry me off afore your eyes, as I'm sure don't fancy none on us, not even that Prince and Princess," for I see 'em myself as they stood in crowds, a-starin' at 'em, and never took off their 'ats, nor give no 'oorors, nor nothink, but 'eld up their 'ands, as Miss Pulbrook says, they can't a-bear all this fuss about infidels.

I says, "They don't call the Princess a infidel,

I 'ope, tho' she do come from Germany, where, I've 'eard say, as they don't believe nothink."

Well, I was dreadful startled with that cannon, but, bless you, Brown were a-snorin', as is 'is 'abits, so I thought as I'd 'ave a bit of a nap myself, but didn't lay long, for all the world were up and busy, so up I gets.

I never was more took aback than when they told me at breakfast as the Princess were a-goin' into the 'areem for to see the Parshar's wives.

"Well," I says, "in course she knows 'er own business best; but," I says, "if I was a princess I shouldn't care to visit such characters myself."

"Ah," says the missionary, "I don't think as the Prince did ought to trust 'is wife in there at all, as ain't a fit place for a decent woman, and is contamination for a Christshun wife."

I says, "You'll escuse me, but," I says, "I've been in myself as am decent, I 'opes, not a party as 'olds with no contaminations."

"Ah," he says, "p'r'aps not; but," he says, "I don't think it right."

I says, "For that matter, no more don't I, but," I says, "it's a werry bad esample for a young man like that Prince, to see a party with 'undreds of wives and nobody a-thinkin' a bit the wuss of 'im, a-encouragin' 'im in 'is goin's on, but," I says, "I never will believe as Queen Wictoria can 'old with

it, and if she only know'd 'arf as I could tell 'er, she'd pretty soon put the kibosh, as the sayin' is, on them young people a-goin' about so free with sich characters."

Not as I 'eld with that missionary, as wanted to go aud preach to the Prince and Princess, as they didn't see it, and were wild about their travellin' on the Sabbath.

"So as," I says to 'im, "that's foolishness, for in course the Prince and Princess would nat'rally keep it like the Turkeys, for, when you're in Turkey, do as the Turkeys does, as the sayin' is, as keeps the Sabbath on Friday."

Oh, 'ow that man did fly out at me, to be sure, and said as I were a apostit'.

I says, "I ain't one not to speak disrespectful to a minister; but, if you wasn't, I should call you a false'ood to your face."

He says, "I'd rather you called me anythink than be a adder to 'ear me."

I says, "Who are you a-callin' a adder? I don't want to 'ear you, and, what's more, I won't, as am not your way of thinkin'; so, please let me alone, and don't call names, and I'd thank you to preach to them as likes it, and not to me, as don't."

Not as any one did like 'im, for them as was Christshuns didn't 'old with 'im, and them as was Turkeys didu't understand 'im, so I don't know

whatever he was there for at all; I only knows as he lived werry jolly, and 'ad the best of everythink, and was always a-sayin' he were a-grievin' over them lost Turkeys, but bore up wonderful for all that, and took 'is meals reg'lar for all 'is grievin', as in my opinion were only make-believe.

Many a spar me and that missionary 'ad; tho' Brown 'ave 'is faults, I will say as he won't stand no nonsense from nobody, not when 'is lawful wife is concerned, and took and give that missionary a good settin' down, the night afore we left, thro' 'im a-sayin' to me as all as I should sigh arter in Egyp' was the flesh-pots.

So Brown, he says to him, "I tell you what it is, if there wasn't no flesh-pots in Egyp', I'm sure you wouldn't be here long."

So that missionary he said, "As he'd been and give up 'ome and all, for to do good."

So Brown told 'im, "He was werry well paid for it," as I'm sure he wouldn't never 'ave made 'is salt, as the sayin' is, thro' a-preachin' in 'Merryker, where they pretty soon shets a man up if he ain't a good preacher, and will pay 'im thousands if he is, and preaches what they likes.

I'd 'eard a deal of talk of the flesh-pots of Egyp', but all as I've got to say is that, I shouldn't never sigh for 'em, for I don't 'old with neither their flesh nor their pots neither; for I calls all

their cookin' beastly, and their meat ain't no flavour, and not a bit of fat on it, not but what they understands flavourin', and makes some werry lovely drinks as is cool, tho' too sweet for me.

What aggrawates me, is their lazy ways, as'll set all day long a-smokin' and dozin' and doin' nothink from mornin' till night.

It's all rubbish, their sayin' as they don't drink no wine, as is forbid by the Profit; for bless you, they'll lap up the champagne, profit or no profit, and may be clean, but I'm blessed if they looks so.

They do say as they be'aves werry proper to their parents; and it is certingly werry pleasant for to see 'ow them little Turkey boys will be a-bowin' down that 'umble to their fathers, as their words is law, and wouldn't no more think of answerin' 'em, nor a-flyin' in their faces any 'ow.

I'm sure my dear mother she brought me up that proper, as I dursn't say 'er nay, was it ever so.

Not as I 'olds with parents bein' over strict, the same as Mrs. M'Logic, as sent 'er sons to bed without a-bit of candle, winter and summer, at nine o'clock, for fear of fire, till they was past forty, as is gettin' on in life.

The ways of them Turkeys is werry proper, a-seemin' to 'oner their parents, as we all knows to be in course their duty.

All I wishes is as some of them 'Merrykin boys and gals was taught their duties by them Turkeys; and so I told that missionary, when he was a-talkin' about enlightenin' 'em as darkened 'eathens.

Oh, he was in a nice rage, and said, "As I preferred darkness to light."

"Well," I says, "it may be, and I'm sure if you calls it light for a boy of twelve year old to call is father a old fool, as I've 'eard 'em in 'Merryker, then I says give me darkness as in Egyp', where the boys almost woships their fathers, tho' they don't scem to take much account of their mothers, tho' 'owever should they, when there's sich a lot of 'em as they can't tell which is their own mothers."

In course, steam is a wonderful thing, and nobody wouldn't believe for to see it a-comin' out at the spout of the kittle, as it could 'ave the power for to carry you 'ere and there and everywhere, as will sometimes carry you too far, the same as poor Mrs. Childers, as was blowed up with 'er own copper-lid, thro' the gal a-lightin' the fire without a-puttin' in no water, so in course the copper got red 'ot jest as poor Mrs. Childers took off the lid, and says to the gal "Bring a pail of water, quick, and souse it in," as she did accordin', and was blowed sky-eye, copper and all, and the coroner said it showed what steam can do, tho' in my opinion it

showed what I've often said, what gals can't do, that is what you tells 'em, as ain't to be trusted out of your sight, and more plague than profit.

It's my opinion as them Turkeys will come to uncommon grief with that steam some day, as won't take no care, and says as everythink is all destination, as is where they'll go to in my opinion, and pretty quick too, for I've 'card say as they'll smoke their pipes in a powder-mill, as is a temptin' Providence, as in course means us to take care on ourselves, or else why ever 'ad we our wits give us, as we did always ought to 'ave about us, and not give Providence the trouble of lookin' arter us, when we might do it ourselves, for there's plenty of times when we can't 'elp ourselves, and then in course it's our duty for to trust to Providence, as will no doubt do the best for us whatever it may be.

I'm sure the bother as we 'ad one night to get a old 'Gypshun woman to go for a doctor, when a party was took with a fit, I never did; for she kep' on a-sayin' in 'er gibberish, as it wasn't no use a-callin' a man, and yet they 'as doctors all about the place, as shows what foolishness they talks; tho' a good many on 'em isn't of the Turkey perswashun.

But talkin' of steam reminds me of the railways, and made me feel thankful as I were not a

Parshar, as was pretty nigh blowed up on one, thro' a waggerbone a-tryin' to upset the train, as if railways wasn't quite dangerous enough in their-selves, with runnin' off the line, and sometimes bein' blowed up thro' a-runnin' into somethink else, but for any one to go to upset a train, 'angin' is too good for them in my opinion, as would giblet 'em myself on the spot, the same as they did used the pirates at Blackwall, as I can remember them 'angin' in chains along the shore as black as crows, in crossin' the water when quite a gal in a row boat, as is now give up pretty nigh, thro' the penny steamers, as isn't 'arf so pleasant of a summer evenin', for to be pulled about in, as I well remembers enjoyin' myself in Battersea Reach, close ag'in the church with the copper steeple, as were put up thro' bein' often struck by lightnin', as is a non-conductor, and always used in powder magazines, tho' the Turkeys they makes that free with iron all over the place, as will strike a light some day, and send them all a-flyin', and then they'll say as it's Aller as did it, tho' all their own gross carelessness.

It's my opinion as a good many of them Turkeys dont 'old with that Parshar's ways, and so I've said over and over ag'in, only Brown he've met me with 'is jeers, but the scowls as them wretches sometimes give me, was hawful, no doubt a-thinkin' me

a princess, or somethink of that sort, and would 'ave made short work on me, only I always kep' my weather eye up, as the sayin' is, and my umbreller too, as I wouldn't 'ave gone out without were it ever so, as I know'd any'ow I could keep 'em at a distance with it.

So 'ad my misgivin's as all wouldn't end well, and I know'd as that gun as I 'eard meant a somethink, and so it turned out as were not sunrise, for that werry day I 'eard as some parties 'ad tried to 'sassinate the Wiceroy by blowin' up 'is train, and so I says to Brown, as come in jest then.

He says, "I never did see such a wooden-'eaded old duffer as you are. Why, that gun as you 'eard were fired close by, and not at all the same time as they tried to blow up the Wiceroy, as was miles off."

"Well," I says, "you needn't correct any one with insults; but," I says, "that gun never went off for nothink, and if I was the Prince of Wales I'd 'ook it 'ome, for I advise 'im to take 'is good lady away at once, and not let 'er see so much of that wice."

"Ah," says the missionary, "you're right; for wice is a monster and so hidjous mean."

"Well," I says, "he may be a monster, as I considers any one as 'ave a lot of wives at a time, and no beauty to look at besides; but," I says,

"mean he certainly is not, a-spendin' the money like water, as he 'ave, on the Prince of Wales, tho' no doubt the Prince'll send 'im shiploads of everythink back as soon as he gets 'ome, and 'avin' seen 'im 'ow he lives 'll know what he wants most, as I considers is decent morals."

That missionary only smiled, but he's sich a fool always a-readin' poetry and learnin' books, and 'im and Miss Pulbrook a-talkin' that clever, and if she didn't take and say to me, "It's a pity, Mrs. Brown, as you don't read a great deal."

I says, "Me read a deal! Never." I says, "My eyes wouldn't stand it, let alone bein' sure to send me to sleep; and whyever should I, as ain't a-goin' to set up a school, nor nothink."

"Oh," she says, "you might improve yourself, as many 'as done, though adults."

I says, "No, thank you, I don't want to go in for no improvemeuts, as is werry proper for adults as 'ave lost their characters, but I meaus to remain as I am, as 'ave always been respectable, and always will be to my dyin' day."

So I says "I don't wish to 'ear nothink more on the subjec'," and out of the room I goes, quite 'uffed at 'er a-talkin' to me as if I wanted reformin', as I'm sure that missionary put 'er up to, with 'is impidence, and 'ad better look at 'ome in my opinion, and so I told 'im one day

when he said as he'd come out to 'wangelize the East.

I says, "Well, I lives out East in London myself, and if you could do somethink with them 'eathens out there, you'd do good."

"Ah," he says, "there's a-many labourin' there."

"Yes," I says, "and a deal of good they does, as can't do nothink, with all them wild roughs, as is like the beasts as perishes, as the sayin' is, and the lots of children as crowds the streets let run loose into every sort of wice and williny, and what's them parties about all the time as calls theirselves pious? why, a-persecutin' a poor creetur as is tryin' to earn a 'onest penny a-sellin' a few cakes and things of a Sunday arternoon, as I read in the paper."

The magistracy, as he were took afore, he's werry good no doubt, as turns up 'is eyes and talks about a-keepin' the Sabbath, and fines the poor man arf a crown and costs for givin' a workin' man a chance to treat 'is children to a cake on a Sunday when he's at 'ome with them.

No doubt that these magistracy 'ave a good 'ome, a good dinner with 'is wine and dessert of a Sunday, as he can afford to buy of a Saturday, but the poor man p'r'aps 'adn't got the money, or didn't know as he should 'ave a penny or two over as he might spend in cakes.

The missionary says, "You've a 'art of flint,

and would encourage Sabbath-breakin', Mrs. Brown."

I says, "Every one's religion is 'is own business, and didn't ought to be interfered with; but don't let religious parties go a-finin' a man arf a crown for sellin' a muffin on Sunday, as many likes with their tea, for a treat, and let the 'baccy shops and public-'ouses be open, as brings in money to the government—that ain't fair, any'ow, 'cos we all knows if muffins paid duty they might be sold in welcome; and as to the Sabbath, as you calls it, let every one keep it 'is own way, so as it's made a 'oliday for all; tho' in course some must work or else others couldn't rest and enjoy theirselves."

I could 'ave said a deal more, only that missionary he 'ooked it, as the sayin' is, as is a reg'lar 'umbug, for nicely he went on one Sunday as the dinner were overdone thro' our waitin' for some as 'ad been a-'earin' a preacher as that missionary didn't 'old with, and when I says to 'im, "Why, according to you we didn't ought to 'ave no dinner at all, as must be sinful to light the fire or roast a jinte, as is work all the world over."

He says, "Ah, but that's necessary work, to support natur'."

I says, "I don't see it; bread and cheese would support natur', and there's many as would be glad to get it," and he didn't say no more.

I must say as them Turkeys 'as ways I don't 'old with, as makes the time pass double quick, 'avin' no Sunday nor nothink at all, as in course did ought to be a 'oliday; but, law, what can you espect from 'eathen Turkeys when we see what a bad lot Christshuns is?

I don't think that never no bird out of a cage were more pleased than me to get out of Egyp', though we did leave in a bit of a gale as blowed us smack away. Miss Pulbrook she cried 'er eyes out at partin' with me, as told me she was a-goin' to stop with some fancy old maid as is a-settin' up a school for to teach blackamoors Hinglish.

So, I says, "Oh, indeed, much good may it do 'em." So, that missionary says, a-jeerin' like "It's a pity, Mrs. Brown, as you don't go in and 'elp at that."

I know'd what he meant, for I 'eard 'im say one day, not a-thinkin' as I 'eard 'im,

"Wherever did that old woman pick up 'er langwidge?"

So I says, "I dare say if I was to teach 'em I should learn 'em a deal as would be useful to 'em, tho' p'r'aps it mightn't be all in grammar and dixonary words, as in my opinion it ain't the words as you uses when you talks, but what you means, as is the most consequence, and when I wants to learn anybody anythink, I'll stop at 'ome and do it," for I

says "black boys and gals may get on without Hinglish better than poor children in London, as is as ignorant as the dirt, as the sayin' is, and trod under foot jest like it." I says, "There's lots of werry good people as means well, and to 'elp the poor, and gives their money, but the poor never gets it, for it's all eat up by parties as makes a good livin' out of goin' about a-readin' and a-givin' tracts."

I'm sure I know'd a Scriptur'-reader as lived on the werry best, with 'ot rolls and butter every mornin', and 'er a reg'lar sloven all day long, and 'im never a-turnin' out till about eleven, as 'ad been in prison afore, and was arter that sent to penal servitude for fifteen years for 'is bad be'aviour to them school children, as 'is wife told me, in a black satin gownd and curl papers, were a prosecuted saint, as I've seen in liquor myself over and over ag'in, and once put 'is arm round my waist comin' thro' a court close ag'in 'Igh Street, Poplar, as give 'im one of my looks as soon settled 'is 'ash, and would 'ave give 'im in charge besides, only through not a-likin' to appear ag'in 'im in the papers, as would make parties talk.

I can't say as I went aboard the steamer as was to take us 'ome, with a 'eavy 'art; tho' it always do give me a trembly shuddery feelin' at fust, and I can't abear the smell of the injin, and them berths

is werry stuffy, but the stewardess is in general werry kind to anyone as suffers, and I'm sure for my part I could pity a dog in sea-sickness, as is a deadly feelin'.

We 'adn't 'ardly got outside of Alesandrer, when the wind it got up, and down I went, and so did the wessel, and all as I wished for was to be throwed overboard for to be put out of my misery.

There was one lady as went stark starin' mad, as raved like wild beastes, and frightened me to death, and bad as I were, was obligated for to get up one night, and 'elp the stewardess set on 'er legs, while the doctor give 'er a sleepin' draught, as in my opinion he pitched rather too strong, for she was a mask of stupidity all the rest of the woyage, as was only luckily a-goin' to Malta where we set 'er down.

Poor thing, she were a widder, under twenty, with a little gal as I should 'ave took to, if I could 'ave set up, but the only thing as I took to was my berth, as I couldn't 'ardly keep in tho', thro' bein' that narrer, it was a tight fit for me.

It's my opinion as them steamers might be 'eld more steadier in the water, only Brown he laughs at me for sayin' so; but what I says is, if they wasn't to let the water in the bilers do more than simmer, they'd go more quieter; for we all knows

if you lets any thing bile 'ard it will gallop, as in course makes the boat wobble about tremenjous, and will spile the meat, as did never ought to bile at all, not as ever you can get one gal in a thousand as'll mind what you says, and keep it on a constant a-simmerin'.

I'm sure that poor stewardess 'ad no sich life on it, a-bein' steamed constant back'ards and for-'ards to Egyp', as 'ad 'er 'usband over there, as 'ad died of a broken 'art, thro' never a-gettin' 'is rights. 'Owever she bore up I can't think, as were a 'eavy figger, and never time to dress 'erself, beyond a jacket and slippers, with dreadful 'eadaches, and all 'er time a-writin' letters about 'er wrongs as never will be righted this side of the grave, as will be a watery one in the course of natur' I should say, leastaways a steamy one, as is the same thing, only more painful, thro' bein' a thing as scalds dreadful, as any one can tell thro' only a-tryin' the spout of the kettle on the bile, as were the end of Tommy Sanders as went to drink out on it, with 'is mother only turned 'er back to fetch 'arf-a-quartern of butter for tea, and never 'eld 'er 'ead up ag'in.

But that stewardess she'd not only got 'er own sorrers, but 'ad seen sich troubles aboard that steamer, as she could amuse you by the 'our together, a-tellin' you about them parties as 'ad gone

over there for their 'ealth, and died on the way 'ome, as they never see ag'in.

So altogether I 'ad a somethink to cheer me up, tho' hawful weather nearly all the way, as did used to be months in doin' it, where now they isn't weeks, not to say days, as is, I should say, the longest as ever was knowed.

We never got to Tryeast, but was obligated to try Malta and Gibraltar, as is a rock as we've been and took from the Spanish, and means to keep, leastways so the stewardess told me, as were a mother to me all the way, for never was I out in sich weather, and when we got to Southampton I was a shadder; and give Brown quite a turn when he see me, tho' I werry soon picked up when we'd got ashore, and never did I enjoy anythink like a mutton-chop and a pint of stout, as made a woman on me ag'in, and able to leave for London by the six o'clock train; and when we did get 'ome, and 'ad my tea, though late, and got to my own bed, I felt that thankful as I 'adn't been born a Turkey, as never were.

Not as I means to speak ag'in 'em, as in course goes on thro' not a-knowin' no better, and p'r'aps it's as well as that Prince and Princess 'ave been, as no doubt talked to 'em werry proper, and when that Wiceroy comes ag'in to England, no doubt he'll only bring one wife, as Queen Wictoria will per-

suade 'im to make a 'onest woman on, and turn over a new leaf, and be'ave like a decent man, the same as the Prince of Wales, with 'is pretty wife and nice young family a-growin' up, as no doubt they'll find werry much grow'd, and a 'eavy load off Queen Wictoria's mind, as would 'ave enough to do if she was to 'ave all her grandchildren throw'd on 'er 'ands, tho' most on 'em is Germans, and would 'ave to be passed to their own parish if she was to turn 'er back on 'em, as is too much the lady to do it, and won't never, I 'ope, let one on 'em marry into Turkey, as is werry well for a wisit, but not a place to settle in.

Not but what some parties speaks ag'in that 'ere Christshun as she 'ave married one on 'em to, a-sayin' as he ain't no better than a Turkey in 'is ways; not as I believes one word on it myself, tho' in course bein' a German Christshun, there's no sayin' what he may be over there.

Queen Wictoria as is a good mother, she's got 'er eye on 'im, and 'ave made 'im 'ead keeper or somethink like that, at Windsor, so in course he can't get away; and they do say she keeps a uncommon sharp look out arter 'is game, so he can't play none of 'is tricks, for fear ho should lose 'is place, as is a good 'un, no doubt.

It's werry pleasant for to go to Egyp' and see it all dry and dusty, and then come back to England

and see the green fields, and more than all for to see parties as looks like real flesh and blood, with colour in their faces, and not all skin and grief, with complexions like old saddles, like them 'Gypshuns.

Not but what I've seed Turkeys as is fine full figgers, with werry waddley walks, as is p'r'aps their trousers as is that baggy, as you can't tell what the leg is like, tho' I suspects bandy in a gin'ral way.

In course, we ain't got no clear skies, and sun almost always on the shine, but then we ain't got no flies, nor fleas to speak on, and other wermin to eat us up, and 'usbands as treats you wuss than dogs, but if Turkeys likes it, let 'em I says; but for my part I'd rather be what I am, as is a plain woman in my ways, as 'ave worked 'ard in my time, and now can take my ease, as the sayin' is.

As to Brown, I do believe as he've took out a new lease, as the sayin' is; for he's more full of goin' about than ever, and that full of steam as there ain't no 'oldin' 'im, and will even talk about Australier, as is tho world upside down they tells me, so I 'ope I shan't 'ave to go there, for I'm sure it's too late in the day for me to begin to walk on my 'ead, or even try for to walk upside down, like the flies does on the ceiling, like Australians

does, as I'm sure would soon bring on blood to the 'ead with me, and stop my walkin' and talkin' too.

But I shan't say I won't go, for no one can tell what they'll do afore they dies, for we're all born but none on us berried, as the sayin' is.

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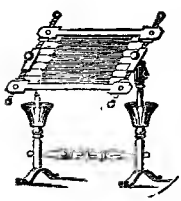

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